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New rules mean most people will pay less taxes

JOSE ROSENFELD

IN an attempt to prevent a shock to working couples when they receive their January salaries, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday announced that working women will receive an additional tax credit point.

As a result of this and other moves, 90 percent of the population will pay less taxes this year.

At a Treasury news conference, following a meeting with Labor ministers, Shohat announced a series of steps he will propose at Sunday's cabinet meeting aimed at lowering labor costs and countering the higher health tax on working couples.

Shohat also took special pains to counter the general impression that the new health tax will increase the tax bill of a significant portion of wage earners. "More than 90% of the population will keep more of their wages than they did before," Shohat said.

In an effort to reduce inflationary pressures and combat an overvalued shekel that threatens to undermine the profitability of exports, Shohat will propose cutting the employers' health tax (*mas makbil*) by 1.9% to 3%. The reduction will mean a 1.5% real savings in labor costs to employers and will ease the pressure for a devaluation of the shekel.

Working women will receive an additional tax credit worth NIS 121 monthly, as will women working in their husbands' business.

The combination of the reform in income, National Insurance Institute, and health taxes, will produce tax savings of between NIS 197 and NIS 41 for individuals grossing up to NIS 13,000 a month. However, someone grossing NIS 15,000 a month will pay an additional NIS 351 in taxes, mostly due to higher health and NII taxes.

Similarly, a working woman will save between NIS 202 and NIS 23, if she grosses up to NIS 13,000 a month.

Mubarak: Rabin's views make me anxious about signing NPT

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

EGYPT'S resolve not to sign the extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty unless Israel does so has been strengthened, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said yesterday.

He was responding to a reported remark by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin earlier this week that Israel must prepare for war in the middle- and long-term.

Egypt has privately called on Israel to at least demonstrate "measurable progress" toward signing the treaty, but Israel rejects the idea that Cairo has in mind, Israeli officials say.

There is speculation the measurable progress Egypt envisions is an Israeli freeze on the production and acquisition of weapons-grade nuclear materials.

After opening the Cairo International Book Fair, Mubarak told reporters Rabin's remark was regrettable.

"Brandishing war is a very dangerous matter," he said. "I'm very sorry to hear this. It makes us feel anxious about signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, because if it was signed, public opinion in all Egypt would ask where we are going."

In his strongest public comment yet on Egypt's dispute with Israel over nuclear weapons, Mubarak said all countries should sign an agreement on weapons of mass destruction.

"If we are to sign an agreement, we must all sign. But for me to sign when [Israel] does not sign, that would be difficult for me as a citizen to accept," he said.

Our view is that mutual confidence-building measures should come first, only after can we discuss confidence-building measures in the area of conventional arms capabilities. Only after peace has taken hold can the more ambitious things become possible."

The source noted that a couple of years ago, Egypt also urged Arab states not to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention, unless Israel signed the NPT. However, many Arab states did sign, out of concern not doing so might damage their relations with the US.



Residents of Kafr Dik confront soldiers during a protest yesterday against the expansion of Alei Zahav. (Story, Page 2) (AP)

Four Palestinian gunmen killed in security zone

Hizbullah threatens Katyusha attacks in retaliation for shelling

DAVID RUDGE

FOUR Palestinian gunmen were killed and two IDF soldiers were lightly wounded as fighting continued in southern Lebanon yesterday for the third day running.

Hizbullah last night indicated it might launch Katyusha rocket attacks on the Galilee in response to what it described as the shelling by the IDF and South Lebanese Army of residential areas north of the zone.

Mohammed Ra'ad, a Hizbullah member of the Lebanese parliament, said on the organization's television station last night that, "The enemy should know the shelling of civilian people will not pass without appropriate reaction. The resistance has the right to respond and will do so at the right time and place."

The clash occurred near Barasheet village, in the western sector, when gunmen ambushed a Nahal unit on patrol.

The IDF spokesman said the soldiers returned fire and charged the attackers, killing one of them. They chased the other three, caught up with them, and killed them in another charge.

One IDF soldier was wounded in the morning clash with the gunmen, and the other in a separate shooting incident in the afternoon.

They were both treated in the field and later evacuated by helicopter to hospital in Israel. One was taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital, where he was treated for a bullet wound and reported in good condition.

George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the attack, which it said had been carried out jointly with Naif Hawatmeh's DFLP. Reports from Lebanon said one of the gunmen was 13 years old.

LAF warplanes were also in action again yesterday, striking at Hizbullah targets north of the zone in the Jabal Shaffi district of the Iqlim al-Toufah region. The IDF spokesman said all planes returned safely to base.

The air raids and the initiated action by Golani Brigade troops operating north of the zone on Monday night appear to mark a new policy on the part of Northern Command to take the battle to the enemy and to keep them as far as possible from the zone and the northern border.

The army spokesman stressed that the shelling had been directed at identified terrorist targets and the source of firing, while avoiding shooting into villages north of the zone.

'Peres met with Syrians in Paris'

ELDAD BECK PARIS

FOREIGN Minister Shimon met here unofficially with an influential Syrian businessman, reportedly with Syrian government approval, according to Arab sources here.

Israeli Ambassador Yehuda Lancry also attended the meeting, but no other details are known.

Both Peres and Lancry refused to comment.

"I don't have to give you any report," Peres said, when asked about his program here.

"I know where Peres was, but I'm obliged to keep it secret," Lancry said.

Peres arrived yesterday in Caracas, Venezuela, for a two-day official visit, the first in 43 years of relations.

The Syrian government is reported to be still undecided whether to hold a second round of talks in Washington between Syrian Chief of Staff Gen. Hikmat Shabi and former chief of general staff Ehud Barak, or to entrust the continuation of the negotiations with Ambassadors Itamar Rabinovich and Walid Mualem.

Due to this reluctance, the US is reported considering a new shuttle by Secretary of State Warren Christopher or his aide Dennis Ross, in an effort to keep the process alive, according to a column published yesterday in the New York edition of the Lebanese daily *El-Hayat*.

Shmuel Segev contributed to this report.

Impact of tax reforms on families' net wages (in Shekels)

Family gross income	Average net income	Average change
3,000	3,088	+146
6,000	5,340	+205
9,000	7,119	+221
12,000	8,719	+268
15,000	10,232	+248
18,000	11,568	+228
21,000	12,856	+105
24,000	14,083	-114

Economic moves too little, too late

COMMENT SARAH HONIG

LABOR Secretary-General Nissim Zivli predicted last night the new economic moves "will not improve the mood of the public. This is all too little, too late. After people discover at the end of the month what a bite the new health insurance fees will take out of their paychecks, all this will fade into insignificance."

Zivli made these remarks after leaving the Labor ministerial caucus, in which Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin let his ministers in on what his Finance Minister Avraham Shohat was going to announce shortly in his press conference.

Zivli immediately realized the purpose of the small tax breaks. Having opposed the new health insurance arrangements from the outset, he warned his party these would be very costly for Mr. Average Israeli and that the backlash against Labor would not be far behind. The polls already show a considerable decline for Labor and Zivli predicts that, after the January paychecks, things can only get much worse for Labor.

The Likud's Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday called it "sweetening the bitter pill. Labor," he argued, "is trying to make a whole bowl full of bitter pills a bit more palatable by garnishing it with a candy."

Labor, as Zivli hinted and as party insiders admit privately, is running scared. Things seem to be going wrong on too many fronts lately and what Labor does not need now is the public's disaffection with its economic policies as well.

But this is not Meretz's problem. Although the two parties are allies, Labor's electoral considerations are not Meretz's, as is also evinced by Meretz's far more uncompromising stance on the territories and the settlements, often dragging Rabin into what he knows are unpopular moves.

Moreover, Meretz does not want to foot the bill for Labor's attempts to regain lost popularity. The Meretz ministers are sure their ministries will be those required to pay a particularly big share of the budget cuts. Such portfolios as Absorption and Environment are seen as not essential. The Communications, Arts, and Sciences Ministry is altogether a concoction which many in the government see as getting a free ride in the state budget.

This suspicion comes on top of Rabin's latest failure in human relations. He never bothered to reveal his intention to his Meretz partners. He only disclosed them to the Labor ministers at the last moment, and then, as an afterthought, when Meretz informed him.

DORIS ZAGAYSKI

of Palm Beach, Florida, passed away on Tuesday, January 10, 1995.

She was born in Poland and was a survivor of the Holocaust. She was the widow of the great Judaica collector, Michael Zagayski and continued to share his interest in art her entire life. Her brother Mi Naida, who established the Musical Heritage Company, died several years ago. She was the cherished aunt of Eli Wilner and Barbara Brennan, Celia Schwartz and Glen Schwartz.

She will always be remembered by those who knew her for her kindness and generosity. She was, in her words, a "fighter" to the very end of her life. Her friends knew that they could always count on her for advice or help at any time of the day or night. Doris was a supporter of philanthropic causes. Among her favorite charities were Hadassah, The Hebrew University, UJA, ADL, Meals on Wheels, and especially the Weizmann Institute in Israel. Her proudest accomplishment was the establishment of a chapter of the Weizmann Friends organization in the Palm Beaches. Its successful existence is a testament to her vision.

In accordance with her wishes, Doris will be buried alongside her beloved husband, Michael, in Beth El Cemetery in Paramus, New Jersey. The service and the burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, she would have wanted her friends to give generously to the Weizmann Institute Palm Beach Chapter in her memory. The world is a better place because of her giving spirit. She will be missed by many.

(communicated)

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- Prof. Chaim Adler** - Director, School of Education, Hebrew Univ.
- Mr. Arnon Manbar** - Director General, Dept. of Immigrant Absorption, Jewish Agency
- Dr. Elazar Leshem** - School of Social Work, Hebrew University
- Dr. Julia Mirsky** - Moderator, Advisor on Immigrant Affairs, Joint, Israel

Discussion open to the public

Concluding remarks:
Mr. Yoel Dorkam - Coordinator, Information Campaign

Van Leer Institute, 43 Jabotinsky St. Bus 15
Sunday, January 15, 1995, 5:00 p.m.

Admission Free - The public is invited

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FORMATION, CONTACT



IDF stops Palestinian march to protest land expropriation

IDF troops prevented about 200 residents of Kafr Dik in western Samaria from marching in the direction of Alot Zehav yesterday to protest land clearing work on a 90-dunam plot near the settlement they claim is theirs.

When the group, carrying signs reading "No peace with settlements" and "Keep your hands off our land," reached the spot where the soldiers had deployed, they were told that they could go no further.

After most of the demonstrators dispersed, a number began throwing rocks at the soldiers. The IDF responded by firing a stun grenade into the crowd.

HERB KEINON
and news agencies

Associated Press photographer Nati Harnik was injured when he was hit in the head by a rock. Shomron Regional Council head Arye Ofri said the incident was to be expected, following the government's "knuckling under" to Palestinian pressure at Efrat.

According to Ofri, work on the site near Alot Zehav began about a month ago, and an industrial park is planned there. He said the land in question - roughly midway between Petah Tikva and Ariel - is state land that has belonged to Alot Zehav for years.

But Kafr Dik mukhtar Abdel Hamid Suleiman said, "I support the peace process, but I'm against settlement expansion. This land is ours. Now they are bulldozing it."

Civil administration spokeswoman Maj. Elise Shazar said the status of the land is being looked into.

Since the government decided to stop work on Efrat's Givat Hattamar and move it to Givat Hazayit last week, following some violent demonstrations, there have been protests over alleged land expropriations near Morag, Talmon, Kiryat Sefer, Ariel, and Psagot.



Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz speaks with Mahane Yehuda vendors in Jerusalem yesterday, during a tour in which he reviewed security measures at the market. (Brian Ressler)

Dahlan denies trying to force bus off road

JON IMMANUEL and ALON PINKAS

COI. Mohammed Dahlan, the Gaza preventive security chief, yesterday denied reports that he tried to force a settlers' bus off the road near Netzarim on Tuesday, maintaining the bus driver would not let his car pass.

"We tried to pass the bus. The version of the settlers, who are the main cause of conflict, is meant to cause problems between us and the Israelis. They all have to know that we are guarding Israeli children as much as the Palestinian people."

According to passengers, the Palestinians, who turned out to

be policemen, forced the bus to stop and cursed and spat at the bus driver for not allowing them to pass. "Had the soldiers accompanying the bus seen that the Palestinians in the car were armed, a blood bath could very well have ensued," army sources said.

Dania Hershkowitz, spokeswoman for Gush Katif settlers, found nothing to praise in the self-restraint of the Israeli military escort. "If there had been six Hamas members storming from the car, there would have been 15 funerals today."

Two soldiers wounded by Gush Katif bomb

HERB KEINON

TWO soldiers were lightly wounded in Gush Katif early yesterday morning, when they triggered an explosive as they were walking to their guard post near the Kissufim Junction.

The IDF closed the Kissufim road, the main road for Israelis to and from Gush Katif, and searched for those who planted the bomb.

The two soldiers were taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

The guard post is manned only during the day, which apparently explains how the explosive device was left at the site.

Palestinian charter can't be changed - Shaath

CHIEF PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath was quoted as saying this week that the intifada would continue in all occupied territories as shown in the latest demonstrations against settlements.

Shaath, quoted by the London-based Saudi-owned weekly *Sharek al-Awsat*, also said it was not possible under current conditions to change the Palestinian charter, which calls for the elimination of Israel.

"We told the Israelis that it is impossible to change it while the agreement is being delayed and dragged along." Six months ago, Shaath expressed confidence that the Palestine National Council would soon meet in Gaza to change the charter.

Shaath said that dialogue with Hamas was continuing and the attendance of all political factions at the funerals of the three police killed last week showed that "the Palestinian people is united especially during crises." (Itim)

Mideast coalition for 'ethnic rights' launched

Jerusalem Post Staff

A NEW organization, the Leadership Committee for a Free Middle East, was launched at a Jerusalem press conference yesterday.

The purpose of the group, according to Col. Shariel Barakat, Middle East director of the World Lebanese Organization and No. 2 man in the South Lebanese Army, is to fight for the "rights of all ethnic minorities in the region and the rights of the Jewish people in this land."

"There is a great fear of fundamentalist intrusions throughout the world, and maybe that is what triggered off the desire on the part of all minorities in the Middle East to face fundamentalism by way of a coalition," said Dr. Manfred Lehman, of Miami, committee co-chairman.

"We realize that we are all in the same boat. The leadership of Egypt, of the Christians in Lebanon, the Syrian Christians in Iraq, especially the oppressed and often massacred Christians in the Sudan - all their leaders got together [last month in New York] with the leaders of five or six Jewish organizations who believe in a strong Israel."

"It was agreed that we are committed to the right of the Jewish people to return and settle on all of its historic biblical land."

ISRAELI officials expressed satisfaction yesterday over the broad international support shown here for a new Middle East development bank.

At the conclusion of a two-day forum to discuss establishing such a bank, they also said they were pleased by the more amenable attitudes of the European Union and Saudi Arabia.

Asked whether the Gulf states will be forthcoming in helping to fund the bank, Finance Ministry Director-General David Brodet said: "I feel very good because what is the spirit of the meetings ... is that eventually we shall find in this bank the Gulf states, the core countries in the Middle East and also the North African countries."

"The Saudis are basically more positive," he added, saying they came around due to the delegates' agreement that the bank would not extend "soft" subsidized loans, but rather only loans at market rates.

He said the EU, which had been skeptical about the bank due to fears of American control, reversed course after being presented with a united Israeli-Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian front.

US Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Joan Spero agreed, saying the "bank was seen as a particularly strong option" because the four parties offered "unified and visionary presentation."

But she said the door had not been closed on other financial mechanisms.

The 37 countries and international lending institutions meeting here also decided yesterday to form a task force that will explore such matters as the composition

of dollars, not only from our country but from other countries - I think it's only appropriate that the public has an opportunity to examine what those assets are and how they are being utilized, and whether or not they are being used for military supplies or are going to help the Palestinian people," Gilman said.

Asked whether he thinks the PLO might direct US funds toward military causes, Gilman said, "I think that's a real concern that some of us have. At a time with so many indigent Palestinians, we want to make sure that those funds get to those that need

Netanyahu: Iran is real nuclear threat

LIAT COLLINS

A SERIOUS threat of nuclear war hangs over Israel, Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu told the Knesset plenum yesterday. Only a handful of MKs and no ministers were present to hear Netanyahu's warning that Iran will be capable of nuclear war within five years.

"Within three to five years, we can assume that Iran will become autonomous in its ability to develop and produce a nuclear bomb, without having to import either the technology or the material," Netanyahu said. "[The nuclear threat] must be uprooted by an international front headed by the US. It necessitates economic sanctions on Iran."

Tying the issue to the political process with the PLO, Netanyahu said: "If Iran becomes a nuclear power, any agreement signed will stand under a question mark. We are in effect defining our future borders with Iran's messengers. When we leave Judea and Samaria, we could be bringing a new Tehran to the hills which overlook Tel Aviv."

In response, Meretz MK Dedi Zucker said the answer is a gradual, regional nuclear disarmament policy in accordance with progress in the political process.

Labor MK Ra'anan Cohen warned that "World War II will look like child's play in the face of the anticipated threat from an extremist Islamic country like Iran, controlled by crazy leaders who won't hesitate to bring about a world holocaust."

However, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur called this an unlikely scenario, "although we have to be prepared for anything. Israel has decided it will continue to exist despite the existence of nuclear weapons in the world. I believe that if we reach an agreement on peaceful coexistence with our neighbors, [Iran's] willingness to endanger itself against Israel will be reduced."

Meanwhile, Army Radio reported yesterday that Iranian diplomats had scheduled a meeting last July with a leading Israeli academic, who canceled it after the Buenos Aires bomb attack, which was linked to Iran.

The radio said an unidentified Iranian diplomat sent an emissary to request a meeting with Amatzia Baran, an expert on Iraq at Haifa University, while he was lecturing in Washington, D.C.

"The Iranians were interested in why Israel has significantly raised its profile over the past two to three years in its attacks on Iran ... and attempts to isolate and create difficulties for it," Baran said.

Tehran denied any involvement in the blast, which killed 95 people.

Saudis, EU more amenable to Development Bank

HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON

and is expected to deliver its recommendations by next October 30 in Amman, when the establishment of the bank is to be officially announced.

Any project to be funded by the development bank must be regional in nature rather than based in only one country, the Israeli officials said.

Brodet predicted that if the Amman conference adopts the task force's ultimate recommendations, the bank could begin operations as soon as early 1996. The funding sources are still unclear, though Brodet said 60 percent is likely to come from outside the region.

Savir and Brodet, along with Palestinian financial official Ahmed Qreia (Abu Ala), were due to meet jointly last night with congressional leaders to discuss both the development bank as well as US funding for the Palestinians.

ZVILLI

(Continued from Page One)

him that its collective feelings were hurt, he offered to meet with the four Meretz ministers briefly before the Shohat press conference.

Speaking for his fellow Meretz ministers, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said no thank you.

"It is unthinkable that Rabin would deliberate significant moves in a party forum and not in the cabinet. If this is how he prefers to run things, then we will hear his news at the press conference, like the rest of the citizens," Sarid said.

Shohat admitted he should have invited Meretz ministers to the meeting, but said the Labor ministers did not make any decision and were not told about any specific budget cuts that might affect their ministries.

inet's decision, which will be made on Sunday with the participation of Meretz ministers," said Shohat.

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Grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Shiva will be held in the Old City, Jerusalem, and at 12 Moscow St., Rehovot.



SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY

Message to the Public

A condolence book for the late **JOE SLOVO** South African Minister of Housing, has been opened at the South African Embassy for signatures, weekdays 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Top Tower, 16th floor.
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In deep sorrow, we announce the death of

ABRAHAM (Albert) LOEWENTHAL

of Jerusalem

The funeral took place yesterday, January 11, 1995.

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Sons: Elhanan & Ahuva Loewenthal

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Shiva at 5 Smolenskin St., Talbieh, Jerusalem.

that would not. "As we have no expectation hunting and country life. The in 1985.

02-370-328

Police release new evidence in ongoing hunt for Brandt

The acquaintance shed new light on previous theories on the

Sherwood said the family, which is Orthodox, had prayed and read psalms all night for their daughter's safe return. "It's like getting a new baby all over again," she said after Turzah returned home.

However, the committee appeared unconvinced.

"It required genuine ill-will to institute the barbaric custom of 'booting,' " said committee chairman Gideon Patt (Likud).

The discussion was initiated by MKs Anat Maor (Meretz); David Mena (Likud), Elie Goldschmidt (Labor) and Shlomo Benizri (Shas), who filed motions for the agenda, following a weekend interview in *Yedioth Aharonot* with

ISRAEL Television reported last night that five of the families that recently immigrated to Israel from a Moslem country had already left for Holland.

sioned to film a couple in the hotel, known as a meeting place for illicit couples and call girls with their clients. But the couple filmed was "the wrong one" and not the man and woman they had been commissioned to spy on. The correct couple did not turn up at the hotel.

Abutbul was arrested a day after Cohen and Schneider.

bed. NIS 45; high chair. NIS 40; citrus LADIES' COAT - wool, black, fur- USED HARP - 07-831486, please leave

Chechens call for peace amid more heavy fighting

BARRY RENFREW
GROZNY

APPEARING in person for the first time in days, Chechen President Dzhokar Dudayev said yesterday that he remained willing to talk with Russia and end the fighting. He said there was "no other resolution" but peace.

But there was no evidence of it in the battered Chechen capital. Heavy artillery shelling rocked the center, and fierce fighting shattered an uneasy calm that had prevailed early in the day.

Russian parliament reconvened after a three-week holiday break, and a succession of deputies criticized the government's decision to send troops to Chechnya.

"The country is in crisis," said reformer Boris Fyodorov, calling for a vote of no confidence in the government. "We have no executive authority, we have no army. The army leadership has shown the army's total inability to act."

One lawmaker said Russian forces appeared en route to a pyrrhic victory; another said at least 1,500 Russian soldiers had been killed in the month-old conflict.

In Brussels, the NATO allies urged Moscow to end the violence and negotiate a peaceful solution.

Looking pale and drawn as he spoke with journalists in Grozny, Dudayev spoke less harshly than in the past. He did not set any conditions for negotiations and

said only a peaceful solution could end the war.

"There is no other resolution but a peaceful one," he said. "We were and still are ready for the fourth year now for peaceful negotiations, but Russia is trying to break in an already open door. No one knows why."

Dudayev, a former Soviet air force general who declared Chechnya's independence from Russia in 1991, said the key issue now was to end the bloody war.

"Only after you put out the flames can you see what remains and what you have to rebuild again," he said. "The issue now is to stop the military action and stop the senseless casualties from both sides, senseless casualties and senseless destruction."

"We told them [Russians] to collect their dead bodies to stop the dogs from eating them," Arsan Ukyev, a colonel in the Chechen forces, said.

Russian television said reinforcements had been sent to Chechnya and other troops were undergoing training, but it was unclear what steps the Kremlin planned next in the war.

The mood was tense in Russia's State Duma or lower house of parliament, where opposition to the war in Chechnya runs strong. (AP)

Walesa, panel approve Auschwitz commemoration

WARSAW (AP) — President Lech Walesa and members of the organizing committee have approved a program for the 50th anniversary of Auschwitz Nazi death camp liberation commemoration, despite earlier criticism from a survivors group.

The program of the January 26-27 observances was approved after more than two hours' discussion of details among committee members on Tuesday, including Auschwitz survivors and officials from Walesa's office.

Maurice Goldstein, head of the International Auschwitz Committee of some 10,000 survivors, who on Friday accused Polish authorities of mishandling the preparations, was in favor of mutual consent, said a statement issued after the meeting.

"Participants in the discussion agreed that all efforts must be taken to ensure the observances' dignified and momentous character, free of any conflicts," said the statement by Andrzej Zakrzewski, a Walesa aide who heads the preparations.

During the meeting, Goldstein said that it is right for Walesa, the event's host, to hold a brief speech at Auschwitz, which the Nazis set up in 1940 for Poles who actively opposed the Nazi occupation, said Marek Karpinski, another Walesa aide. Only later were Jews brought to Auschwitz, he said.

Goldstein had accused Walesa on Friday of trying to take Auschwitz "away from the Jews" by giving the opening speech.



Parents and pupils wait to register for the new school year yesterday in Johannesburg.

A new era begins for South Africa's integrated education system

JOHN DANISZEWSKI
JOHANNESBURG

TO 12-year-old Idah Khesa, a beaming girl in beaded hair who would like to become a scientist, the start of the South African school year yesterday presented a new world of opportunity.

She was one of tens of thousands of black pupils taking advantage of historic new rules by President Nelson Mandela's government that bar school discrimination and permit blacks to enroll in classrooms previously set aside for whites.

Escorted by her father, a plastics worker, Idah left a rundown class in the Kiptown section of Soweto and signed up at Fairways Primary School — a quiet academy situated next to a golf course in a leafy suburb north of Johannesburg.

What does her new school have that her old one lacked? For starters, a swimming pool, tennis courts and cricket. She said with a dreamy smile, "I am very excited."

The anti-discrimination rules that took effect yesterday are the first step by Mandela's African National Congress-led government to fulfill its campaign pledge to end separate and unequal schooling along racial lines.

From now on, no state-funded school can discriminate because of color and even the poorest child is guaranteed an education, whether or not parents can afford school fees, books or uniforms. Nearly two million pupils were expected to report for first grade, which for the first time is free and compulsory.

"The government is committed to finding a space for every child," said Mary Metcalfe, in charge of education for Gauteng province, which includes Johannesburg.

Joseph Khesa, Idah's father, said he was happy to pay 4,200 rands (\$1,200) a year and drive Idah and her seven-year-old sister a half-hour each day so she can attend Fairways.

"Last year I did try to enroll my kids at these [white] schools, but always I was getting that the schools are full. This year, on my first attempt, they agreed to take my kids," he said. "The main benefit I think is that my child will be involved with whites — she must gain something from that — and being away from riot places."

The new rules have infuriated conservative whites, who claim it violates constitutionally guaranteed culture rights if non-African pupils are imposed on African schools.

"It is not possible to have de-

cent education where you have different cultural groups in the same school," said Ferdi Hartzenberg, leader of the Conservative Party. Mixing would only lead to falling standards and discipline, he told Associated Press Television.

But educators interviewed said they expected no problems and believed integration would benefit and unite the country in the long run.

"A developed country must have developed people — educated people," said Klaus Van der Wal, principal of Riebeeck High School in Randfontein, which has allowed Afrikaans-speaking mixed-race students to join its 700-strong student body.

Blacks, mixed-race Asians and whites had a hodgepodge of 19 separate government and homeland education systems during the apartheid era. They are now beginning to merge. (AP)

Pope seeks to calm row with Buddhists

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II sought to calm a building crisis awaiting him on his Asian tour, expressing respect and esteem for Buddhists angered by remarks in his best-selling book.

The pope made the conciliatory statement yesterday just hours before departing for the Philippines, the only predominantly Roman Catholic country on a grueling 11-day, four-nation swing.

Buddhists in Sri Lanka have demanded the pope apologize for remarks in the pope's book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, they view as critical of Buddhist practices. John Paul is due in Sri Lanka, which is 70 percent Bud-

dhist, on January 20, after stops in Papua New Guinea and Australia.

Earlier in the day, a Buddhist temple in Sri Lanka was damaged by fire in an apparent retaliation for an arson attack on a Catholic church. The chief priest of the temple is leading a campaign to get the pope to apologize.

"I voluntarily take the occasion to assure followers of the Buddhist religion of my deep respect and my sincere esteem," John Paul told his general audience.

"I trust that the visit to Sri Lanka and the other countries can strengthen dialogue and understanding among religions,"

John Paul said.

In a seven-page chapter on Buddhism, the pope's book says, "It is not inappropriate to caution those Christians who enthusiastically welcome certain ideas originating in the religious tradition of the Far East — for example, techniques and methods of meditation and ascetical practice." The Buddhists see that as a criticism of their life of self-discipline and meditation.

John Paul's 63rd foreign tour of his 16-year papacy is centered around both reaching out to other religions while honoring Roman Catholics in countries where they are minorities.

He has elevated more souls toward sainthood than all his

20th century predecessors.

In the 16th year of his papacy, John Paul has officiated at 606 beatifications and 268 canonizations. In contrast, his seven predecessors beatified 79 Catholics and canonized 98 between 1903 and 1978, according to Vatican statistics.

The trip will be the 74-year-old pope's first abroad since visiting Zagreb, Croatia, in September. The pope scrubbed an October visit to the United States because of slow recovery from hip-replacement surgery in April.

He looks frail and walks with a cane. It will be a severe test of his ability to keep on traveling, one of the hallmarks of his papacy.

Fifteen killed in attacks on Algerian bus, mosque

ALGIERS (AP) — Fifteen people were killed and seven wounded in attacks on a bus and a mosque in eastern Algeria, security forces reported yesterday.

Their announcement came on the third anniversary of the army-backed coup that established a ruling military committee and sparked the three-year-old civil war against the government.

Eleven people were shot to death and six wounded by machine-gun-wielding gunmen when the bus was attacked Tuesday in the eastern city of Bama, 430 kilometers southeast of Algiers by suspected Muslim extremists supporting the Islamic insurgency.

A communiqué from security authorities gave no other details on the attack, which came the same day that gunmen opened fire on worshippers leaving a mosque in Baska, near Bama, killing four and seriously wounding another.

The gunmen fired on the worshippers from a vehicle and fled, the communiqué said.

Muslim militants have declared in some parts of Algeria that imams named by the government, such as the one presiding at the Baska mosque, should not be allowed to conduct prayers.

Several government-designated clerics have been assassinated by suspected Islamic extremists who have waged an insurgency for almost three years after the government canceled legislative elections and outlawed the main Muslim movement, the Islamic Salvation Front.

There were no claims of responsibility for the attack, though ambushes of this sort are generally believed to be the work of Muslim extremists who support the establishment of an Islamic state.

Algerian opposition members met in Rome for a fourth day in a closed session yesterday to discuss ending the strife that has killed more than 15,000 people.

"The Algerian problem is a world problem," said Abdelouali Ali Yahia, a civil rights lawyer and spokesman for the group. "Our first objective is to stop the violence. Our No. 1 problem is the government's violence against the democratic process."

'Charles won't marry Camilla'

LONDON (AP) — Is it better to be married to the love of your life — or be king? Prince Charles says king, according to yesterday's *Sun* tabloid.

The *Sun* said the prince told friends he has no plans to marry his mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles, after the divorce.

Lawyers for Mrs. Parker Bowles, 47, and her husband, Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles, 55, announced Tuesday that they have begun divorce proceedings to end their 21-year-old marriage this month.

The *Sun* said aides and members of Queen Elizabeth II's Privy Council of advisers had warned the 46-year-old heir to the throne, who is separated from Princess Diana and expected to divorce eventually, against planning to marry Parker Bowles. It said they feared more anti-monarchy backlash if he did.

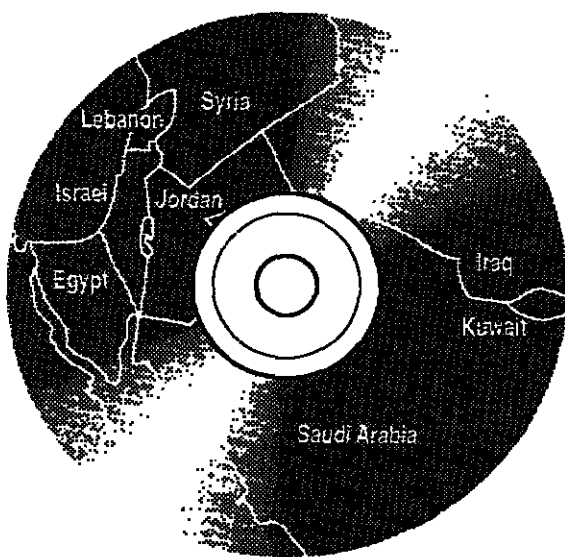
The paper quoted what it described as a well-placed source as saying, "The prince does not believe there is any prospect of a marriage to Camilla. He fully understands that public opinion would be against him and his principal aim is to become king on the death of his 68-year-old mother."

"Charles and Camilla will continue to be great friends and to see each other privately," the *Sun* quoted the source as saying.

A poll this week in *The Guardian* newspaper showed that a growing number of Britons think the country would be better off without the monarchy — 27 percent against 20 percent in 1992.

The *Daily Mail* said Parker Bowles told a friend after lawyers announced that he and his wife will divorce: "I cannot go on living somebody else's life."

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ISRAEL POLICE

Missing Persons Bureau

The Israel Police requests the assistance of the public, in its efforts to identify the body of a man which was washed up on the beach at Givat Ha'aliya, Jaffa, on December 20, 1994.

Description

- Age: about 50
- Height: 1.72 m.
- His clothes were marked "Made in Italy"
- Gray and blue shirt with a label marked "Pooh"
- Another shirt with a label marked "Lorenziomd"
- White undershirt bearing the name "Indio"
- Blue jeans trousers bearing the name "Rifle"
- Brown shoes

Anyone with information that could help in identifying the body is asked to phone

02-309344, 03-5122444, 03-5122433, or contact any police station.

Upmarket suits at 'bargain' prices

FLAIR

GREER FAY CASHMAN

WHEN does a discount become a bargain? At first glance, a NIS 2,400 price tag on a suit doesn't seem to be much of a bargain, until one realizes that the original price was NIS 3,400. That's not the least expensive suit that the Vendome chain in Tel Aviv's Gan Ha'ir is including in its end-of-season sales - but neither is it the dearest.

Catering to an upmarket clientele, Vendome's elegant merchandise is enhanced by labels such as Hugo Boss, Giorgio Armani, Valentino, Versace, Lacoste, Marina Rinaldi, Max Mara and other well-known designers.

Anyone who's explored Harrods or Saks Fifth Avenue knows that merchandise of similar quality can be picked up for somewhat less money abroad. But for those who have no travel plans in the immediate future, North Tel Aviv stores such as Vendome, Leopard and Silhouette offer top international brand names.

Not everything in these stores is beyond the budget of the average wage earner. Suits for either him or her may be somewhat steeply priced, but shirts, blouses and pants come as low as NIS 150, though the aver-



Vendome in Tel Aviv offers elegant suits by Gideon Oberson (left) and Hugo Boss. (Sivan Farag)

age price is closer to NIS 290. Local designer Gideon Oberson, whose creations are also in

the higher price bracket, is selling pure wool suits for NIS 2,160 instead of NIS 3,000, and wool

bouclé jackets for NIS 2,550 instead of NIS 1,785. Happy shopping.



British 4wd rides the diesel bandwagon

MOTERING

JOEL GORDIN

LAND ROVER DISCOVERY. Four-wheel drive, diesel-powered all-purpose vehicle. Engine size: 2,495cc. Horsepower: 119 at 4,200 rpm. Gears: automatic. Acceleration: 0-100 kph in 18.9 secs. Top speed: 145 km/h. Diesel consumption: at 90 kph, 15.5 km/l; in town 10.7 km/l. Length: 452 cm. Width: 179 cm. Height: 192 cm. Price: NIS 174,564 (including VAT).

THE buzzword in European automotive circles is diesel. This fuel is less than half the price of gasoline, and a diesel engine gets more kilometers to the liter than the equivalent-sized gas engine. Diesel engines generally are also longer-lasting.

With the aid of modern technology, diesel engines are now odorless, quiet and environment-friendly. Performance-wise, they're not quite up to their gasoline equivalents although they're catching up, especially if a turbo-charger is added.

The Transport Ministry, for its own mysterious reasons, is not encouraging the use of diesel engines for private automobiles and has slapped prohibitive taxes on them. You must cover quite a few kilometers a year to make up for the increased purchase price.

Britain's Land Rover is getting into the diesel act here with the 1995 Discovery, with a four-cylinder turbo-diesel engine. The Discovery is the younger sister of the Range Rover, the acknowledged Rolls Royce of 4wd's (which costs NIS 290,000 in Israel). Another sibling is the Defender, a no-frills, off-road vehicle used by police, the military and farmers around the world.

All were introduced here about two years by the Eastern Automobile Company and have become cult vehicles. Their own-



The Discovery is the younger sister of the Range Rover, the acknowledged Rolls Royce of 4wd's.

ers belong to a Land Rover Club and wear designer clothes with the Land Rover label.

The company has bowed to trends and changed the classic '70s look of its products. But the new Discovery cannot be described as beautiful, although it has an eye-catching exterior, with two skylight windows at the rear and the sheen of the aluminum body. The grid guarding the front headlights and the front sunroof are standard on the FXI model, which I tested.

Inside, there's an extraordinary mixture of luxury and utility. The seats are plush leather, the between-seat console is lined with non-slip rubber. Electronic gizmos include climate-control facilities for each passenger and an adjustable driver's seat which would make most TV armchairs feel uncomfortable. However, to remind you that this is a car for the great outdoors, there are also

a slew of businesslike grips and handles.

The Discovery now has a driver's airbag as standard equipment, ABS braking system and a "crush can" energy-absorbing system to guard passengers in the worst eventuality.

The Discovery seats seven - two in front, three in the rear and two more on collapsible folding chairs in the luggage area. The back seat can be folded flat to increase loading room.

As in all Land Rovers, the 4wd is permanent, making for steady, safer driving on asphalt, as well as giving greater traction in tougher conditions. For real stick-in-the-mud circumstances, the differential can be locked, so that the power is not concentrated on any of the bogged-down wheels.

The lock is activated by a flick of a lever and the speed, while the differential is locked, can also

be set at low. However, you seldom need such drastic measures to pull the Discovery clear of any kind of morass. Its powerful engine combined with the magnificent chassis makes it practically unstickable.

I would not say that the diesel is soundless, but has a rather pleasant throb, not the high whine associated with the older diesel engines. Smell and smoke? Absolutely none.

However, performance on asphalt is sluggish, as the acceleration and maximum-speed figures show. Diesel's slowness on asphalt is particularly noticeable on steep hills, when it creeps down to the point when you'd like to change down a gear, but you can't because there's automatic shift.

This could be a drawback here. Most Israelis who want the Discovery will not be the serious 4wd freaks, who will go for outdoor monsters like the locally-made Sufa or the Defender. Discovery-buys will be those who want to use their 4wd as their main form of transport.

The running economy of diesel may not be sufficient to make up for the initial high purchase price and the lack of zip on the road.

The gasoline-driven Discovery costs the same as the diesel. It has a larger (3.9 liter) engine (which admittedly gobbles gas at the rate of 9.6/km at 90 kph). The gas engine can get from 0-100kph in 11.8 secs and has a maximum speed of 168 kph. The Discovery gas version is not the only serious competitor to its diesel twin. The gas-driven three-liter Toyota Four Runner and the Mitsubishi Pajero sell for around NIS 150,000 (including VAT) and for both "normal" driving performance is as good as any family car.

DIY manhood induction

OFF THE SHELF
MARTHA MESELS

WHAT do a rabbi and a videocassette have in common? Both can prepare a boy for his bar mitzva.

A new Tel Aviv production company has gone on the market with a do-it-yourself bar-mitzva preparation kit. It consists of two videocassettes, an audiocassette, a tallit and a kippa - all for NIS 250 at a special introductory price (regular price: NIS 280). Or, you can buy just the three cassettes for NIS 180.

The company, called The Wonderful World of Judaism, is headed by two newly Orthodox men, both of whom had worked in the world of secular film production. Rabbi Mordechai ("Moti") Gal has been Orthodox for the past 20 years; Shuki Ben-Porat for four years.

Their kit is targeted at secular boys who are generally ill at ease in their first encounter with religion, in preparation for the bar mitzva. The kit can be used in place of, or to supplement, traditional study with a rabbi or melamed (religious teacher).

Gal stars as the bearded, but casually dressed, rabbi in the two videocassettes. The first takes three clearly secular boys on an adventurous trip around the country's holy sites. The second cassette is an introductory journey into the world of tallit, tefillin, Torah and synagogue.

Each kit includes an audio cassette with the relevant *maftir* and *haftara* portions.

The bar-mitzva cassettes were originally recorded in Hebrew, but there are versions available in English, French, Spanish and Russian. These employ a combination of voice-over and subtitles. The audiocassette with the appropriate bar-mitzva portion is in Hebrew, with a choice of Ashkenazi or Sephardi style.

The videocassette demonstrates a simplified technique for learning to intone the melody. Gal says that some boys master their portions within a week, but he recommends buying the bar-mitzva kit for a boy any time after his 12th birthday.

Even the tallit and kippa were designed to bridge the gap between secular and religious worlds: both articles use denim in their design.

The kit - called *Masa Legil Hamitzva* ("Journey into the age of commandments") - is sold only

by (toll-free) phone order, 177-022-6263.

The videocassettes include a greeting from both chief rabbis, and a song especially written and performed by entertainer David Broza, whose son was the first to utilize the cassettes abroad.

TU BISHVAT, which falls next Monday, continues the incongruous tradition of using largely imported fruits and nuts to celebrate the local birthday of trees. The practice stems from the days when the only transportable fruits from the Holy Land were dried ones - such as dates, figs and carobs.

The Fruit Production and Marketing Board has tried to uproot this strange custom and promote fresh local fruits, but to little avail.

For the holiday, Osem has come out with a moist fruit cake in its new Habayit ("home-made") line of parve packaged cakes. NIS 7.50 for 300 grams. It contains bright red candied cherries, bright green pieces of citrus peel, walnuts and other goodies.

The Super-Sol/Hypercol chain has gift baskets with dates, figs, prunes, apricots, pineapple and banana chips. Sizes are half-kilo (NIS 12.90) and one kilo (NIS 23). The nutritional value of each fruit (except the apricots) is listed on the underside label.

The chain also has half-kilo packs of figs or figs/apricots, at NIS 9.95. Gift packs can be phone-ordered from Tele-Sal, 177-022-5656 - as well as purchased in Super-Sol and Hypercol stores.

Meanwhile, Weight Watchers has come out with a Tu Bishvat reminder: dried fruits contain, on average, four times the number of calories as fresh fruits.

TO DISINFECT fresh fruits and vegetables, Top Sood has a new antibacterial liquid. It looks like blue window-washing liquid, except for the picture of tomatoes on the label.

You make a solution of one to two tablespoons in a liter of water, soak fruits and vegetables for five minutes, then rinse. Or you

can put a drop of the blue liquid on a piece of fruit, rub it around and rinse well.

The product carries kosher approval of the Haifa Chief Rabbinate. The words "Top Sood Antibacterial" appear on the back in English. The liquid has a pleasant fruity odor, and a 750-ml bottle has an introductory price of NIS 9.90.

IT SOUNDS like science fiction. The new Samsung Bio-TV reportedly emits "far-infrared rays" (the longer wavelengths of radiation in the infrared spectrum) which provide "beneficial effects to the human body not only while viewing but also when the TV set is switched off."

Samsung Electronics of Seoul does not say exactly what health benefit these infrared rays should impart, but it publishes results of a Seoul National University study on plants and animals.

In this study, the growth rates of onions, chrysanthemums, carnations and roses were reportedly speeded up, while fish became more active. The survival ability of a drowning mouse under far-infrared rays was increased by 120 percent, compared to the drowning time of a mouse under normal conditions, the report states.

The university study also claims to have confirmed the rays' "harmlessness to the human body."

Contacted for comment, Dr. Shmuel Brenner, deputy director of the Ministry for the Environment, first examined the available documentation and then replied that he "remains skeptical." He wants the ministry to test the Samsung Bio-TV to ensure there is no corollary increase in emission of X-rays or other rays which are harmful to humans.

Infrared rays themselves are not considered harmful, and are best known to the public from infrared heating appliances. Brenner told me, The soft Samsung Bio-TV sets are slated to reach local electronics shops within two weeks.

If skepticism doesn't deter customers, the price might. The sets will cost between NIS 6,000 and NIS 8,000, depending on the screen size. This makes them among the most expensive on the market.



The Wonderful World of Judaism's bar-mitzva kit takes three boys on a trip around the country's holy sites before introducing them to tallit, tefillin, Torah and synagogue.

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LOUNGE SUITE - tweed, comprised of 5 chairs, excellent condition, NIS 300. 02-702911.

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WANTED

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TAPES FOR LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION - French or Arabic, reasonable. 04-403079.

TABLES, CHAIRS - other furniture in good condition for Russian olim. Will pick up in Haifa area. Nechama, 04-382219.

PSYCHIC - to find lost keys in my apartment. 02-257483.

BOX SPRING - for double bed. 02-856530.

LAGO - or any type of building toy, good condition. 02-850573. NS.

FRUM ACTRESSSES AND SINGERS - to form a performing group for creative outlet and karav, improvisational experience helpful. 02-510389.

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Beilin and Bolshevism

ONE of the Soviets' most impressive skills was their ability to pervert language. With breathtaking brazenness they named some of the world's most ruthless tyrannies "people's democratic republics" and routinely accused the West of being anti-democratic. Their skill was so awesome that it inspired George Orwell to write his classic 1984, the ultimate essay on doublespeak.

For a while, it was thought that the fall of the Soviet empire would render these skills an obsolete craft. But Deputy Minister Yossi Beilin's pronouncement on Tuesday alleviated such anxiety. The doublespeak artists are alive and well, nurturing the Orwellian language from their perch in the Foreign Ministry.

According to Beilin, to suggest that visiting dignitaries include Yashem and the Golan in their itinerary is a manifestation of "Bolshevism." Visitors should not be "forced" to visit anything they don't want to visit. Everyone knows about the Holocaust, and everyone knows about the Golan. If they want to go there, they should do so on their own initiative.

To suggest that anyone has ever been forced to visit either place is ridiculous, if not libelous. Israel's expectation that every first-time official visitor pay respects at Yad Vashem is not coercive. Every country has a memorial, usually for an unknown soldier or the country's founder, which foreign dignitaries are expected to visit. No one would dream of refusing such a visit anywhere else. And with the exception of Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, no one has felt imposed upon for being expected to visit Yad Vashem.

To apply "forced" to routine suggestions to visit the Golan Heights is even more offensive. The suggestion to include it in a visitor's itinerary is not done arbitrarily; it usually follows a consultation with the visitor or his/her staff. Many official visitors have never come near the Golan.

But to believe that Beilin is truly concerned about the government's "Bolshevik" tactics is to believe that the Stalinists were promoting freedom when they called their satellites "democracies." Beilin's considerations are far more practical. He fears that keeping the Yad Vashem tradition may make a visit by Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak impossible.

The ministry is still smarting from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's humiliating efforts to persuade Moussa to make the expected gesture and visit Yad Vashem. After much begging by Peres not to let Egypt's image in Israel deteriorate to a new low, the visitor grudgingly agreed to go through the children's memorial, provided he was spared the main building. For Mubarak, even this is too much. He has made it clear he would not come to Jerusalem if it meant being seen wearing a skullcap at Yad Vashem. What better way for Beilin to save him from this

embarrassment than to scuttle the tradition altogether.

Omitting the Golan from suggested itineraries involves an even more devious political calculation. What bothers Beilin is that virtually every visitor to the Golan has expressed astonishment at Israel's willingness to relinquish it. A survey of the American generals and admirals who have visited Israel under the auspices of the Washington-based Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA) shows that every last one of these distinguished military men believes it would be foolish for Israel to withdraw from the Golan and wrong for the US to station troops there.

Nor is the sentiment limited to military experts. A national poll of 1,000 American adults conducted last week by the Luntz Research Company, one of the leading polling organizations in the US today, found that the US public opposes a Golan deployment and hopes Congress would nip the idea in the bud.

Only 35 percent of those polled favor stationing American troops (called "peace monitors" in the poll) on the Golan, compared to 58% who are opposed. And nearly half (44%) of those who are now in favor of deployment say they would stop supporting it if they believed "US military personnel might be attacked by terrorists or be caught up in renewed fighting between Syria and Israel in the future."

(A recent survey conducted by the BESA Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University indicates that Israelis oppose the stationing of US troops on the Golan by an even wider margin: 70% to 15%.)

Beilin's response to such reactions by Golan visitors recalls Communication Minister Shulamit Aloni's objections to organized youth visits to Auschwitz. They should be abolished, she said, because the young visitors return "too nationalistic." Beilin would like to stop Golan visits, not because they represent a "Bolshevik" imposition, but because testimony by statesmen, generals, and strategic experts against the wisdom of withdrawal may discourage Israelis from voting for it in a referendum.

Not that the term "Bolshevism" is completely irrelevant in this case. JINSA, one of the most effective instruments of US-Israel friendship, has been encouraged and lauded since its inception by every Israeli government. Now it finds itself "out of favor" with Jerusalem, because the American generals it brings to Israel oppose a Golan withdrawal. Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich has even implicitly threatened the organization with the termination of Israeli government cooperation if it continued voicing objections to stationing American troops on the Golan. Other trusted old friends of Israel, both Jewish and gentile, have been boycotted by the Israeli Embassy for similar reasons.

Now that's Bolshevism.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SPORTS NEWS

Sir, - Two articles by Aryeh Dean Cohen (on December 27 and January 3) criticize the TV sports channel for both the content of the programs and the inconsiderate manner in which they are presented. Among their senseless daily presentations, those on body-building plumb the depths. The only thing that could increase the excitement of that program above the level of watching grass grow would be the inclusion of names and telephone numbers! Another sheer waste of time is the enormous amount of space allotted to car and cycle racing. Without having to pay the exorbitant fees for cable, I could stand on the sidewalks of Allenby, Ben-Yehuda, or almost any other Israeli main thoroughfare and watch our local drivers - especially the teenagers - drive just as recklessly and dangerously as anything seen on TV.

And in the Letters column of January 3, Mr. Blass supports Mr. Louvish (December 26) in bemoaning the excessive American content of your otherwise excellent paper at the expense of matters of Israeli interest. This also applies to your sports pages. Do we really need so many column-meters about those overweight, overpaid American ball players who have gone on strike because a pay check of several million dollars is not enough for them? Many more of your readers would be more interested in a forecast of next week's local football (soccer) results to help them in their selections for the Toto pools!

IAN COHEN

POLYSYLLABLE

Sir, - I see from the Post of January 6 that the home of MK Silvan Shalom has been burglarized. No doubt his importance accounts for this polysyllabic privilege; ordinary people's homes are just burgled.

J.J. CHERNS

Netanya.

THE ROLE OF MACHAL

Sir, - I am writing with regard to Allison Kaplan Sommer's article of December 16, "Lanzmann for the defense." I am troubled that Claude Lanzmann did not mention in his otherwise excellent film *Tshahal*, the crucial role that Machal (Volunteers from Abroad) played in laying the foundations of the Israel Defense Forces in the 1943 War of Independence.

To many, especially the young, the film portrayed Israel's wars and the IDF as beginning in 1956. Yet the fundamental 1948 war, which was the longest in Israel's history, when 6,000 were killed, could not have been as successful without the contribution of Machal which fought alongside the heroic forces of the Palmah and Hagana.

The first surgeons for eye wounds and burns, the first naval commanders, the first radar technicians, the first heavy artillery men, the first tank commanders, the first senior infantry commanders and, most important, the first fighter-plane pilots, ground crews and engineers, were volunteers from abroad. These foreign volunteers, men and women, Jews and non-Jews from 29 different countries, from Burma to Chile, from Cuba to Canada, brought vital skills and equipment in difficult, clandestine operations to Israel's fledgling forces. As Yitzhak Rabin once said, "They came to us when we most needed them during those hard and uncertain days."

Lanzmann said that he wanted to portray a connection between the IDF and the Holocaust. The cruellest irony is that many Machal members were survivors of Hitler's Final Solution, yet they still chose to volunteer in 1948 to help create a safe homeland. Many sadly paid the supreme sacrifice and left their blood on Israel's soil.

STANLEY MEDICKS
Coordinator,
The British and European Machal
Association
London.

COST OF LIVING INDEX

Sir, - I refer to G. Keren's letter of January 3 about the cost-of-living index. Why is it that no one in government can see what the ordinary citizen sees?

Including the cost of housing in the index is absurd. As the writer pointed out, that is a once-in-a-lifetime purchase for most people.

I also commend his trying to come to grips with the effect of the seasonal fluctuations in the prices of fruits and vegetables. Isn't education a better tool than the political storm resulting from imports? Public service announcements advising what substitutes to purchase would do a better job.

But the bigger problem has to do with compensation for employees according to the index. They are "compensated" and immediately prices rise in every sector. And, of course, that is followed by an increase in the cost of housing - ad infinitum. A real "Catch-22."

It is time for someone in government to take the initiative and put a stop to this destructive nonsense.

EUGENE KLINE
Jerusalem.

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

Sir, - I refer to Raine Marcus's article of December 29, "Three shelters exist for 1,300 battered children." This is very inadequate, but the problem cannot be solved because of lack of funds.

On the same page under *News in Brief*, you report that a heart surgery campaign for Gazan children will be launched by Kapat Holim Cholim, Soroka Hospital and the Rabat Municipality.

While most people would applaud this worthy cause, because no one wishes to see any children suffering, I believe that most Israelis would feel strongly that charity should begin at home.

MIA SILVER
Netanya.

LEG 95



Realism, French-style

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

LAST month, all Paris celebrated after a daring operation in Marseilles in which an elite commando unit killed four Islamic terrorists on a hijacked Air France plane.

Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Interior Minister Charles Pasqua have been taking a tough stand against the growing threat of Moslem fundamentalism within France. It is a stand popular among non-Moslem French.

Visitors to Paris during the past few weeks have seen vast numbers of armed police and security squads on guard everywhere. Scores of North Africans living in France have been detained, or simply expelled, as the crackdown on potential activists intensifies.

Reaction among young Moslems has been vigorous. Even schoolgirls born in France to North African parents defy the authorities by wearing traditional Islamic attire.

Never has a political wheel gone through wild gyrations than French-Israeli-Moslem relations.

In the good old days of the 1950s, there was a passionate love affair between Paris and Jerusalem. Israeli pilots training with advanced Mirage and other warplanes were hailed as heroes by the cream of the French officer class. Very strange it was, too, given France's traditional ambivalence toward its Jewish population.

In truth, the average French citizen disliked Arabs more than Jews. But the problem was more political. President Nasser of Egypt was openly inciting the Algerian rebels to throw the French out of North Africa. With the help of an Israeli intelligence officer, France devised a plan to blow up the radio transmitting stations calling on all Arabs to "die for the cause of freedom for our Algerian brothers."

The French even sent the bomb to Egypt. But somebody in Paris got cold feet, and the device was hidden away in French Embassy cellars. There was immense embarrassment at the Quai d'Orsay when it was reported that the "bomb had been mislaid." Finally tracked down by clerks working overtime, it was returned to Paris in a diplomatic bag.

Then suddenly, on the eve of the Six Day War, president De Gaulle reverted to type. He viciously attacked the Israelis, lambasting them as arrogant Jews for daring to ignore his advice not to go to war against Nasser.

De Gaulle ordered an embargo on arms deliveries to Israel before the first shot of the Six Day War was fired. That Israel went

'Don't practice what you preach' seems the rule at the Quai d'Orsay - at least in dealing with Moslem terror

on to win a historic victory with its French planes and other equipment meant little to De Gaulle. How dare Jews cease to behave as they, traditionally had in their ghettos? France began to treat Israel as a pariah, and Israel took a Jewish mother's advice to a jilted daughter and found a more generous beau. It switched to American war supplies.

FOR OVER a quarter of a century, as the French made Paris a sanctuary for Arabist terrorists, they bombed Israelis with advice.

The message: You cannot win the war against terrorists by hitting back at them. Learn from us. We gave Algerians their freedom. There is no more terror; no more killing. Do as we did. Give Gaza and the West Bank to the Arabs, and you'll all live together peacefully. Your eye-for-an-eye tactics are doomed to failure.

This advice was meted out by senior government ministers and officials. It appeared day after day, year after year, in thousands of newspaper editorials. Nobody purveyed this morality more assiduously than President Mitterrand, particularly on his last state visit to Israel. Eventually, much of the Israeli leadership was persuaded. Certainly admirers of French culture like Shimon Peres, and, finally, Yitzhak Rabin, were swayed.

The French message finally got through to the stiff-necked Jews, and no doubt contributed to sweet surrender becoming Israeli government policy. Yasser Arafat was embraced as a long-lost lover. Hand-in-hand, the PLO

leader, Peres, and Rabin walked into the Norwegian sunset to collect their checks and Nobel Peace Prize medals.

Nobody applauded more than the cream of French society. And some Israelis really believed that the French were sincerely applauding "realism."

Yet hardly was the Arafat-Labor government betrothal over than the French started behaving in the heroic, pre-1948 Israeli manner.

A French squad dropped out of the skies, Entebbe-style, and snatched the daddy of all terrorists, Carlos, out of his bed in a Sudanese hideout. They trussed him up (as wild Israelis once trussed up Eichmann) and flew him back to their capital.

Then, faced with hijackers on an Air France plane, orders were unequivocal: "Kill them."

We telephoned a retired diplomat in Paris to say: "Bravo. But remember: You can get the French out of Algeria, but you will never get Algeria out of France."

The Frenchman had the grace to say "Touché." He remembered once telling us about the Israeli leader who had said: "You can get the Jew out of the ghetto, but you will never get the ghetto out of the Jew."

Charles Pasqua has become the most popular man in France by using the full power of his police to crush the growing ranks of young Moslems who are planning to export Algeria's fundamentalist uprising.

And the French are doing precisely what Israel didn't do at the outbreak of the intifada: cracking down before a germ becomes a national epidemic.

French realism has seen that although a sea separates France from Algeria, terror recognizes no boundaries. Pasqua and Balladur know that ridding France of Algeria is likely to be a fight to the death, unless it is fought now with ruthless determination.

The lesson for Israel is crystal-clear to those who aren't blinded by the urge to look good in the eyes of the world and are no longer bound by the ghetto mentality.

And we don't have a sea to separate us from Gaza and an independent West Bank.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

Done down

MEIR RONNEN

IT'S curious how the very people who protest against ethnic discrimination, real or imagined, are those who benefit most from the perpetuation of ethnic differences.

The day before last week's massive annual bash at the grave of Moroccan sage Baba Sali in Netivot, *Ma'ariv* printed a two-page interview with his son and heir, the rather intimidating Baba Baruch. The headline quoted Baba Baruch to the effect that Sephardim here were being done down more than ever. Example: yet another Ashkenazi had been appointed chief of staff.

It is hard to believe that a clever man like the Baba actually believes in ethnic rotation for major security jobs rather than appointments based on merit and experience.

What he was doing, I suspect, was yet again mounting a hobby horse that priests, kings, dictators, politicians and assorted political candidates have ridden along the road to power and influence for millennia.

True, many of Baba Baruch's community form part of the un-

Some people never tire of mounting the ethnic hobby horse. Last week, it was Baba Baruch

derclass in a society in which the gap between poor and affluent is now nearly as wide as it is in the US. But none of his community are going to be helped by populist slogans.

In the body of the interview, Baba Baruch does register his disgust with religious figures who use their prestige to obtain positions of temporal and financial power - a dig no doubt at Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, who was a prominent figure at his side at Netivot last week.

ALSO CURIOUS is the effect of uniforms and fancy dress upon the masses. Imagine the Pope or the Dalai Lama in business suits - or Baba Baruch and Rabbi Ovadia Yosef wearing the jeans worn by most of their congregants, or even the funeral black suit which denotes clergy almost everywhere. No wonder Baba Baruch wears the traditional black cloak, while Ovadia Yosef clings to his gold-braided uniform, once the sole prerogative of a chief rabbinical post created by Britain's colonial administration.

The fact is that Yosef's post as spiritual (read political) leader of an ethnic-based political party places him at the head of a mini-empire far more powerful than the Chief Rabbinate. Its continuing success depends upon rallying ethnic support.

But not all populist politicians preparing for party primaries are in fancy dress. Labor's sober-suited Rafi Edri and party whip Eli Dayan show no compunction in bidding for a slice of the same ethnic support by pretending to fight for a long school day at a time when even the short school day isn't functioning at a minimal standard.

In the early '50s, Jewish Agency officials decided that preserving ethnic culture and building ethnic neighborhoods was the best way to preserve the social and mental health of the myriad Jewish communities ingathered here. In a generation or two, these officials reasoned, communal and ethnic differences would blur into some sort of Israeli identity.

They were right up to a point - but ethnic culture, forms of prayer and even culinary traditions have been both proudly preserved and ruthlessly exploited, in both Ashkenazi and Sephardi communities.

As in the US, the great seal of which contains the motto *e pluribus unum* (unity in diversity), much of Israel's strength and even allure lies in the richness of its cultural diversity.

But with ethnic and religious differences exploited for immediate religious, financial or political gain, and the current sunning of Israel society along peace camp/maximalist lines, Israeli society is beginning to look like a partially assembled jigsaw puzzle.

It's not the *pluribus* that worries me. It's the *unum*.

The writer is a veteran journalist and political cartoonist.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Mothers in a Buddhist temple in Seoul pray for the success of their children in academic aptitude tests. The examinations are crucial for entrance to colleges and universities. (AP)

150 من الامم

I want to marry my girl, despite her miscarriage

DEAR RUTHIE

RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
When my girlfriend found out she was pregnant, I decided to marry her. Just before our wedding, she had a miscarriage. She was upset and canceled the wedding, claiming that I was "off the hook." Nothing I have said has convinced her that I want to marry her anyway. Maybe you can help me.

Wedding-Bell Bumped
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Bumped,
Having a miscarriage is traumatic. Aside from the mourning which accompanies the loss of a baby, feelings of inadequacy and fears of future infertility may be hovering. It is thus understandable that your girlfriend called off the wedding when she did.

Her claiming to be "letting you off the hook" is an expression of insecurity. Not only did she "fail" to carry out her pregnancy, but she may imagine - her pregnancy was the only reason you wanted to get married in the first place. If you wish to convince her otherwise, you must be empathic, patient, and extremely consistent in your own belief in the marriage.

Dear Ruthie,
My 13-year-old son slept at a friend's house last week. The following day, I discovered that the other boy's parents had spent the night out of town. I hit the ceiling. My son says I'm treating him like a baby. Am I overreacting?
Overprotective Overseer
Jerusalem

Dear OO,
Your son doesn't even think you're overreacting.

Granny loses her grip

BOOKS

STEVE SILK

WHAT'S WRONG WITH AMERICA, by Scott Bradfield. St. Martin's Press. 196 pp. \$18.95.

GUESS what crazy Emma O'Hallahan has done now? The Southern California granny with a bad attitude bumped off her cantankerous husband. Filled old Marvin with a load of buckshot, she did. Right in the head. Buried him in the backyard. Now if only the old guy would leave her alone.

But no. Marvin stubbornly keeps reappearing from the grave, haunting Emma with his presence and, worse, with his long litany of what ails America and just about everybody in it. It's as if the decomposing creep never died.

Not only does this distract Emma from her first tentative steps toward self-discovery, it also ticks her off mightily. Who knows what she'll try next? After all, she just dug another big hole in the backyard.

Emma's murderous rebellion against her husband, heck, against just about everything that bugs her, is the subject of Scott Bradfield's new mind-bending novel, an inky black comedy that charts the course of a mind loosing its moorings in the loopy stew of pop-culture America.

Bradfield, an English professor at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, is a writer who's no stranger to crafting bizarre stories. A *Gentleman's Quarterly* critic once wrote that reading Bradfield "can make you feel very weird indeed, as if the pages were impregnated with LSD."

And though the title of his latest weird trip might lead you to suspect a type of diatribe, *What's Wrong With America* instead skewers some of America's oddest quirks, from mail-order reli-

gion to a doom-mongering media, and provides a zanily warped view of a dysfunctional family, genus Southern California.

The story is told through entries in O'Hallahan's journal, begun by the feisty grandmother so that her children, including dizzy daughter Cassandra (a self-help nut forever groping for the switch to her inner light), and her grandchildren, including Cassie's slack-son Teddy, will have some idea who she was.

Marvin's murder inspires O'Hallahan to break out of her longtime cocoon. Her metamorphosis is a doozy. It prompts an indulgent wallow in junk food, brandy, soap operas, murder, and an instance or two of casual sex. In the process, her grip on reality, which was always rather suspect, grows more tenuous.

Then, somebody really crazy shows up: Teddy, her grandson. Having sampled assorted psychedelic drugs, spiritual disciplines, sexual orientations and a few Boy Scout field trips, Teddy reckons he's the ultimate Californian, a true transcendental trailblazer.

But Teddy is a lightweight compared with his dad, the goofiest fruit in the family's troubled tree. The would-be guru who ran off with Cassie when she was just 17 is back, too. He's reinvented himself as a free-wheeling, mail-order amalgam of Orin Roberts and Estemier Werner Erhard, a metaphysical meathead with plenty to pontificate about.

When this family reunion kicks off, it doesn't take long to find out what's really wrong with America. But let Bradfield tell you.

His straightforward prose goes down as easily as, well, a Kit-Kat bar, and his story packs the mind-altering punch of a double shot of brandy. (The Hartford Courant)

A Jewish gem in the Caribbean

TRAVEL

MICHELE CHABIN

SUNNY and warm nearly 365 days a year, this picturesque Caribbean island boasts one of the oldest Jewish communities in the Western Hemisphere.

Sixty-five kilometers off the northern coast of Venezuela - a three-hour flight from Miami - Curacao is the perfect destination for vacationers seeking that rare mix of island paradise and Jewish culture.

Curacao was discovered by Spanish explorers in the late 15th century, and has been a Dutch possession since the mid-1600s. It received autonomy from Holland in 1954, along with the other four islands that comprise the Netherlands Antilles (Bonaire, Saba, St. Martin and St. Eustatius).

Though tourist friendly, with several good hotels and restaurants to choose from, the island is far from touristy. With just 1,900 hotel rooms (plus 500 rental apartments), the island simply can't accommodate more than 5,000 or 6,000 visitors at a time.

The lack of large-scale tourism, coupled with the fact that Curacao's 175,000 permanent residents have worked hard to preserve the island's natural beauty, has ensured a quiet, tranquil lifestyle for locals and tourists alike.

Curacao's clear turquoise waters and varied wildlife attract nature lovers and sunbathers alike. The reporter's trip to Curacao was courtesy of the Curacao Tourist Board, the five-star Sonesta Beach Resort and Casino, and American Airlines.

FOR ANYONE interested in Jewish history and culture, Curacao is a truly a gem.

Rene Maduro, head of the Jewish community, notes that of the 180 families on the island, "more than half can trace themselves back to old Sephardi families from Europe." Unfortunately, he says, "unless the Jewish community gets some new blood it will die out."

With a touch of sadness in his voice, he explains that "Jewish kids on the island are sent to the States for university. Those who go into the professions usually study in Holland, since they need a Dutch degree to practice medicine and certain other professions." For every two Jewish children who leave the island, "only one will come back," Maduro says. Rabbi Feintuch, who moved to Curacao less than a year ago, calls the Curacao Jewish community "unique."

"This congregation is unusual in that it descends from Spanish-Portuguese Jews with a Dutch connection," he explains. "Many of our members are direct descendants of Jews who were expelled from Spain and Portugal, and who then moved to Holland."

The first Jews - 12 Sephardi families in all - sailed from Amsterdam to Curacao in 1651 and established Congregation Mikve Israel. Soon after, Jews from Portugal and Brazil, fleeing religious persecution, joined the community. By the early 1700s, the Jewish population num-



Curacao's Mikve Israel-Emanuel Synagogue, built in 1732, has the distinction of being the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the Western Hemisphere. (Marcelle Martinez Associates)

bered over 2,000.

Lured to the island by Curacao's religious tolerance, the Jews thrived and founded businesses and banks. During the 1920s, the community became more diversified, as Ashkenazim moved to the island.

Today, there are some 500 Jews in Curacao, split evenly between Ashkenazim and Sephardim.

Despite its dwindling size, the Jewish community remains vibrant. In addition to joint Hebrew school courses taught by the island's two dynamic rabbis (the spiritual leader of Mikve Israel-Emanuel is Israeli-born Rabbi Yossi Feintuch), the community boasts a B'nai B'rith lodge and a

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local chapter of WIZO. Sha'arei Tzedek, the Ashkenazi synagogue built in 1959, is located in Mahaaai, a suburb of Willemstad, the capital. It is a modern-Orthodox shul with about 200 members.

Mikve Israel-Emanuel Synagogue (built in 1732), has the distinction of being the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the Western Hemisphere. Located in the heart of downtown Willemstad, it is now in the process of being renovated.

The synagogue is still Sephardi, but no longer Orthodox. It is open to residents and visitors every Friday night at 6:30, and every Saturday morning at 10, as well as holidays.

During services, men are not admitted without jackets and ties; women are expected to wear a dress or skirt. Be sure to dress in light-weight fabrics, however, since the synagogue isn't air-conditioned.

ISRAELI visitors to the Mikve Israel Synagogue will undoubtedly find the Shabbat service somewhat eclectic, as the rabbi alternates between the congregation's favorite traditional melodies and more modern renditions.

The shul is richly adorned with silver and brass, reminiscent of the old Portuguese synagogue in Amsterdam. In contrast to the ornate wooden theba (in the center) and the huge ark (containing numerous Torah scrolls), the synagogue's floor is covered with a thick layer of white sand.

According to local lore, the sand symbolizes the desert where the Israelites camped on their 40-year journey to freedom. It is also said to represent the custom of Jews in Spain and Portugal during the Inquisition, who prayed on sand to avoid being heard in the temples.

According to the synagogue guidebook, others believe the sand represents the traditional blessing of God to Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous "as the sand which is upon the seashore" (Genesis 22:17).

The balcony, which once served as the women's section (men and women now sit together downstairs), houses an organ dating back to 1866. The organ was used in the synagogue even in the days when the congregation followed Orthodox ritual.

The museum, which is adjacent to the synagogue, displays some of the most precious and beautiful Jewish ritual objects anywhere in the world. (Note: The museum is closed due to renovations, which are expected to be completed early in 1995.)

The displays, lovingly housed in two 250-year-old buildings that once served as the rabbi's residence and the mikve, mirror the long, rich history of Curacao Jewry.

Of special interest are:
• A Torah scroll brought by the first Jewish settlers to Curacao, which is believed to be from the time of their expulsion from Spain in 1492.
• Two circumcision chairs, one dating back almost 300 years.
• A 200-year-old silver tray from Holland, still used for the smashing of the wine glass during wedding ceremonies.
M.C.

Accommodations for observant Jews

ORTHODOX residents of Curacao have kosher food for their own use flown in to the island. Most supermarkets stock kosher snack foods, like nuts and potato chips.

If given advance notice, Bright will welcome observant Jews in his home for Shabbat and holidays. He can also recommend rental apartments within walking

distance of Sha'arei Tzedek. Fax: 5999-367415. Synagogue phone: 5999-375738. Before making a reservation, Orthodox Jews should inquire whether the hotel uses regular door keys. If the key is electronic, they will have difficulty leaving their rooms on Shabbat and holidays.
M.C.

Telephone card offers even cheaper calls

TRAVEL TIPS

HAIM SHAPIRO

VISITORS and Israelis who want to call overseas and avoid costly hotel surcharges, or save on Bezeq fees, can now buy a Telesave card for international calls. The card, which has a recommended price of NIS 49.50 for 150 telephone units, is available at shops in tourist areas. According to EuroNet, producer of the card, the price is 20 percent lower than equivalent Bezeq fees.

The user dials a toll-free number, gives the serial number of the card, and the number desired. When the card is finished, the user has the option of continuing the call, using a credit card. A recorded message service for incoming calls is also available.

TZABAR, a company which specializes in arranging hotel accommodation in Israel, is offering a nightly rate of NIS 120 per couple at the Paradise Kinneret resort. The deal, which includes breakfast, is for a minimum of two nights.

LUFTHANSA has begun to operate two daily flights between Frankfurt and Orly Airport in Paris, in addition to its existing flights to Charles de Gaulle.

The airline reports that the Orly flights, which arrive in Paris in the morning and leave in the evening, are especially suitable for businessmen because of the proximity of the airport to the city business center. The new flights are in an Airbus 320 and a Boeing 737.

OPHIR Tours is offering a seven night pack-

age to the Portuguese island of Madeira from \$747. The price includes round trip flights, hotel and breakfast.

PACKAGES to Gibraltar, a new vacation destination for Israelis, are available from Round the World Tours. The price of a seven-night package starts at \$1,031 and includes airfare to and from London and between London and Gibraltar.

AER LINGUS of Ireland is now represented in Israel by Open Sky. The agency also represents Air Portugal, Japan Airlines, Aeromexico, Air India, the French airline AOM, USAir, and Scenic Airlines, which has flights over natural wonders in the western US.

AVIS in the US is offering a "valet check-out": An Avis representative will accompany clients to the airport terminal in their rental car, rather than make them return it to a nearby lot and wait for the company's courtesy bus.

EROTICA



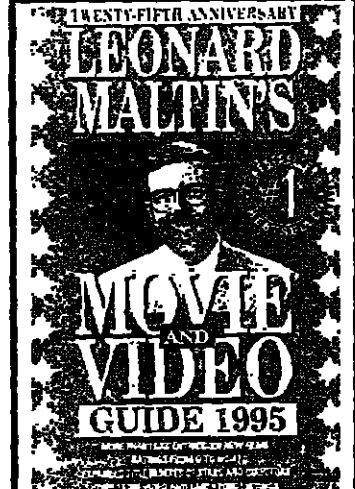
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1995

'Mat served as cover for Carmel funds transfer' Maurice Saatchi sets up new ad agency

THE liquidators of the Carmel Carpets conglomerate claimed in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday they have information indicating that the Mat Investment Corp., one of Carmel's secured creditors, served as a cover for circular transfers of funds between the two companies, thus giving Mat, and effectively Shapira, an unfair advantage over Carmel's other creditors.

The claim by Carmel's liquidators, attorney Yossef Cohen and accountant Ovadia Blass, was made in response to the refusal

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

by Shapira's lawyer, Dr. Ya'acov Ne'eman, who set up and represented Mat, to cooperate with their probe into the relationship between the two companies.

In addition, the liquidators claim they have confidential information apparently proving that Mat acted as the central link in one of the country's largest frauds against creditors and that Ne'eman was aware of Mat's real purpose.

The liquidators claim Mat lent money to Carmel to give Shapira preference over other creditors and that MAT's representatives served as directors in Carmel Carpets and even received wages.

A spokesman for Shapira said the claims "are a lie. Neither Shapira nor any other member of his family, has rights in Mat. Every day, the liquidators come up with a new or old story in an attempt to ruin his name and to cast judgment on him in the media."

LONDON (Reuters) - Maurice Saatchi, deposed chairman of what was once the world's biggest advertising group, set out to prove his boast "nothing is impossible" yesterday by forming a new agency.

Saatchi, in a move which shook the advertising industry to its foundations, will staff the new group with senior executives who have quit Saatchi & Saatchi since his dismissal.

Just hours after his announcement, British Airways, one of Saatchi & Saatchi's biggest clients, said it decided to end its contract with the company pending a review of its advertising.

"Events have moved much

more quickly than anyone could have imagined and I have been called by many clients who are anxious to know my plans," Maurice Saatchi said in a statement.

"In order to avoid any more uncertainty, I have decided to announce the foundation of a new agency."

Saatchi shares responded to the turmoil, which no one believes is over yet, with another day of selling. They finished 4.5 pence weaker at 107, about 24 percent down this week.

In a deliberate swipe at his old company, which intends to scrap the name Saatchi & Saatchi Co. Plc, Maurice has given his new venture the working title "The

New Saatchi Agency."

The much-rumored move was engineered by former Saatchi luminary Sir Tim Bell, a formidable public relations man, who is certain to join the new outfit along with four leading Saatchi lights who quit earlier yesterday.

Maurice confirmed long-time ally Jeremy Sinclair, who became acting chairman after he was forced out in a shareholder revolt last month, would be joining as a partner, along with Bill Muirhead who ran the Saatchi network in North America and David Kershaw who was its London boss. The trio quit on Monday.

But Maurice's older brother Charles, the creative genius who co-founded Saatchi & Saatchi in

1970 but kept out of the limelight, was reported to be staying on in his present position of life president.

Instead of Saatchi & Saatchi, yesterday unexpected twist could lead to "Saatchi versus Saatchi", Alex Benady of Marketing Magazine told Sky News.

The company threatened "whatever legal action is necessary to protect its interests" and has already said it will hold the defectors to work out notice periods of up to a year.

But many observers expect some pay-off to be arranged in due course and chief executive Charlie Scott tacitly admitted as much in a pep talk to the market on Tuesday.

Panel to gov't: Complete Shipyard privatization soon

THE Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday called on the government to complete its plan for the privatization of Israel Shipyards as soon as possible.

At the same time, according to chairman Yossi Katz, they said the privatization program must insure that the shipyard continues to operate, and that workers' rights are protected, including their right to preferential separation terms. It also said the workers and the Histadrut should be

Jerusalem Post Staff

included in the privatization process.

The committee discussion followed last week's refusal by Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar to accept any of the bids for the shipyard. He said all the bids were too low, even though the government had not set a minimum bid.

Shipyard managing director Ze'ev Almog told the committee that the key to restoring the firm

to health is efficiency. He noted that over the years, the work force has been reduced from 1,200 to 250.

He also said the Treasury's refusal to grant the firm a moratorium on debt repayments has led to a situation where it now owes \$4.5 million, \$10m. including interest.

He noted that the firm cannot ask a bank for a loan without permission from the Treasury's accountant-general and the Knesset Finance Committee, creating a management nightmare.

Africa-Israel sets up firm with Jordanians

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

AFRICA-Israel Investments has signed an agreement to establish an Israeli-Jordanian company for the energy, aviation, tourism, real estate and agriculture fields.

The company is a partnership between Africa-Israel, attorney Uri Slovin and Jordan's Dajani family. The investors have not decided how much money will be invested in the joint firm.

Africa-Israel said the company plans to invest in hotel and tourism projects on land owned by the Dajanis.

The firm also plans to set up an entertainment park on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea and is considering the establishment of a high-tech industrial park.

SPNI condemns benefits for Dead Sea Works

LIAT COLLINS

THE Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel has strongly condemned the Knesset Finance Committee's intention to extend the Dead Sea Works Concession (Emergency Measures) Law in order to sell off the company.

The law basically grants the company extra-territorial status, with the right to build and develop in its concession area without being bound by the national planning and construction or business licensing laws, which require that environmental considerations be taken into

account.

"It's outrageous. It's incredible that in an enlightened country a company has put itself above the law of the land and is free to cause unlimited environmental damage," SPNI director Yossi Leshem said.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid has also opposed the move, but it is backed by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish who claim the company's operations would be severely hampered by requiring planning permits.

Shalom offers radical tax-cutting plan

EVELYN GORDON



Shalom: In the West, cutting taxes usually leads to higher tax revenues. (Uri Keren)

FIVE hours before Finance Minister Avraham Shohat announced his latest tax cuts, the head of the Knesset Finance Committee, Silvan Shalom (Likud), submitted his own, more radical tax-cutting plan to the Knesset.

Shalom's plan, contained in a private member's bill, would establish three tax brackets: 10 percent for people earning up to NIS 4,300, 25% for people earning NIS 4,300-8,980, and 35% for those earning more than NIS 8,980. Currently, the tax rates are 15% up to NIS 2,800, 30% from NIS 2,800-6,020, 45% from NIS 6,020-11,800, and 50% above NIS 11,800.

In addition, the highest corporate tax rate would be reduced from 38% to 35%.

According to Treasury estimates, Shalom said, these tax cuts would cost about NIS 11.3 billion.

He noted, however, the experience of other Western countries has shown that cutting taxes usually leads to increased tax revenues due to further growth and a reduction in tax evasion and the

use of tax shelters. Thus, he said, using a "conservative" assumption that only 60% of the loss will be recouped through increased collection, the cost of the cut drops to NIS 4.76b.

Shalom proposed two methods of paying for this loss, both of which include raising NIS 2.5b. by the massive sale of state land. This would have the side benefit, he said, of encouraging building

and reducing housing prices.

To raise the remaining funds, Shalom's preferred method is trimming 2% from the budget of every government ministry - a savings of NIS 2b. - and then taking an extra NIS 350 million from the kibbutz debt arrangement.

If this proves politically impossible, however, the cuts could be financed by a 2% increase in the value-added tax, he said, since throughout the Western world, governments are shifting from direct to indirect taxation. Direct taxation, he explained, discourages production, while indirect taxation discourages consumption.

Shalom stressed that throughout the world, countries have found that lowering taxes creates more social equity, because the rich start coming out of their tax shelters and paying a higher share of the taxes.

Furthermore, Shalom said, Israel's tax burden, at 41% of GNP, is objectively high.

At a press conference yesterday to publicize his plan, Shalom denied that it was "populist."

"Tax reform has led to growth in many countries in the world," he said. "And this [plan] does not just ease [people's] burden. It has another side, of sharp reductions in government expenses."

Even so, however, it seems doubtful that it could muster the support to pass in the face of almost certain government objections.

Money managers being probed in 'wild North'

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Securities Authority is examining investment portfolio managers in the Haifa region suspected of stock manipulation and other violations of securities trading laws, according to a capital market source.

The source said the authority is focusing on the "wild North" after concentrating most of its activities last year on investment portfolio managers in the Tel Aviv region.

The Securities Authority did not comment.

In a related issue, the authority is investigating Pisgat Hon, an investment portfolio management company in Haifa. A capital market source said the probe

started several weeks ago.

Israel Radio yesterday reported that a recent Bank Leumi internal control report indicates the bank granted credit to firms engaged in stock manipulation, including Pisgat Hon. The report also claims there are discrepancies in the bank's handling of credit management.

"Four of Pisgat Hon's customers are suing the company for stock manipulation. The customers are also suing Bank Leumi which granted credit to the company. The customers are suing for a total of NIS 100,000, a relatively small amount of money," a capital market source said.

Arrive in TA, depart from Amman

HAIM SHAPIRO

IN what is apparently the first airline ticketing arrangement featuring Tel Aviv and Amman as one destination, British Airways is offering a tour package to UK customers in which they can arrive at one airport and leave from the other.

In the past, a tourist buying a package tour to Israel and Jordan had to arrive and depart from the

same airport, causing travelers an entire day crossing the border.

In a related development, the airline's vice-president in charge of public relations, Michael Blunt, said it will resume flights to Damascus and Beirut soon. He said the decision had been made because of recent political developments and that flights to the two cities are to begin on March 1.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US still country's largest export market: The US is and will continue to be Israel's largest export market, according to a rating system developed by Manufacturers Association. The survey results give the US a 4.41 rating, on a scale of one to five; as a potential export market. The European Union received a 4.09 rating and the EFTA countries were rated at 4.07.

The Manufacturers Association said the scale is subjective and takes into account quality of life, rate of current trade with Israel, GNP growth rate, existing free trade zone agreements and membership in GATT or other trade agreements.

Bio-Technology General announced yesterday that the Bio-Cordia Corporation, which has licenses to some BTG products, has granted the Japanese pharmaceutical firm JCR exclusive licensing rights to OXSODROL, a genetically engineered human superoxide dismutase enzyme (SOD) that is used to treat BPD, a chronic lung disorder found in some premature infants who have received high concentrations of oxygen.

ECI Telecom announced yesterday it has been selected by Swedish public telecommunications provider Telia AB to supply \$2.5 million in ExLine2 HDSL systems and management software.

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsaur yesterday proposed to combine the activities of the country's agricultural and commercial attaches to cut embassy costs. Minister of Industry and Trade Micha Harish said he will examine the proposal.

Kivun Computers announced yesterday it signed a distribution agreement with a leading US CD-ROM producer Multimedia Product Corporation (MPC). MPC will produce Kivun's multi-lingual Accent word-processing package on CD-ROM for distribution to the US and Europe.

TA Development Fund raises \$15m.: Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo announced yesterday the Tel Aviv Development Fund has raised \$15m. for projects in 1994.

Taste of Israel drops lawsuit against Burger Ranch: Taste of Israel will receive an additional 3.5% share in Burger Ranch, or a total of 21% of outstanding share in the fast food chain in an out-of-court settlement between the two firms. Burger Ranch will not be obligated to purchase \$1.5m. in Taste of Israel shares based on the agreement.

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leumi pia לומי פיא

MUTUAL TARGET TARGET Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 10.1.95
Purchase Price: 132.16
Redemption Price: 130.06

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National Insurance Institute

Notice to Parents, born after 1920, who were Persecuted by the Nazis
Repeat of notice published in June and November, 1994

A recent amendment to the law in Germany makes it possible for a woman born after 1920 to submit an application to be recognized, for the purposes of Insurance, for periods in which all her children were growing up (for children born before December 31, 1949) if, because of Nazi persecution, she left the German Republic, or an area in which the social security insurance laws of the German Reich were in force (e.g., Danzig, Upper Silesia, Sudetenland, Koenigsberg, Memel, and Lodz).

A period of up to 12 months will be accepted, in respect of the bringing-up of one child. Fathers are entitled to submit an application, if the main burden of educating the children fell on them.

Submitting Claims
Information sheets on submitting claims for the recognition of insurance periods can be obtained from all branches of the National Insurance Institute, or write to the National Insurance Institute, Head Office, International Agreements Liaison Bureau, P.O.B. 90009, Jerusalem 91909.

Information and Public Relations

Mexican stock prices recover

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexican stocks plummeted for a third day in a row yesterday, only to recover much of their losses after President Clinton made a strong statement of support and Mexican leader Ernesto Zedillo said he was sure stability would return soon.

The main stock price index dived more than 6 percent in early trading as investors appeared to give up completely on the Mexican market and financial authorities, battling to ride out a three-week economic crisis, raised interest rates to five-year highs.

The losses added to a 13 percent market slide in the first two days of the week.

Clinton's remarks, backed by Zedillo's expression of confidence in the economy and some discreet buying of shares by Mexico's development bank Nafin, then reversed the trend.

The key IPC stock market index was up more than 3 percent by late afternoon.

The market was up 59.28 points at 2,031.61 after earlier plummeting 332 points.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates) (12.1.95)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	5.025	5.125	5.225
Point sterling (£100,000)	4.875	4.975	5.075
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.225	4.325
Swiss franc (SF 500,000)	3.875	3.975	4.075
Yen (¥ 10 million)	0.750	0.850	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (11.1.95)

Currency	Buy	Sell	Bank of Israel
U.S. dollar	2.8910	2.8920	2.8910
U.S. dollar	2.8910	2.8920	2.8910
German mark	1.9439	1.9449	1.9439
Point sterling	4.6714	4.6724	4.6714
French franc	0.2540	0.2550	0.2540
Japanese yen (¥100)	2.8915	2.8925	2.8915
Other bank	1.7035	1.7045	1.7035
Swiss franc	2.2285	2.2295	2.2285
Swedish krona	0.3591	0.3601	0.3591
Norwegian krona	0.4445	0.4455	0.4445
Danish krone	0.4857	0.4867	0.4857
Finland mark	0.0076	0.0077	0.0076
Canadian dollar	2.1173	2.1183	2.1173
Australian dollar	2.2979	2.2989	2.2979
S. African rand	0.3478	0.3488	0.3478
Belgian franc (F)	0.9459	0.9469	0.9459
Austrian schilling (S)	2.7692	2.7702	2.7692
Italian lire (L100)	1.9401	1.9411	1.9401
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	—
Irish punt	2.6883	2.6893	2.6883
Spanish peseta (100)	4.6285	4.6295	4.6285

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

01-11-95

Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 3.0130	-0.07%
Sterling	NIS 4.7087	+0.06%
Mark	NIS 1.9617	+0.06%

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Index	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	2608.4	-11.0
DJ 30	2608.4	-11.0
NYSE	2608.4	-11.0
NASDAQ	2608.4	-11.0

Other stock market indexes

Index	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3048.4	-11.0
Hong Kong Hang Seng	11186	-11.0

ISRAELI STOCKS IN NY

Symbol	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	17.5	-0.5
Bank Hapoalim	18.5	-0.5
Bank Mizrahi	19.5	-0.5
Bank Leumi	17.5	-0.5
Bank Hapoalim	18.5	-0.5
Bank Mizrahi	19.5	-0.5

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Country	Rate	Change
UK	1.9617	+0.06%
Germany	1.9617	+0.06%

LIBOR RATES

Term	Rate	Change
3 months	5.50%	-0.01%
6 months	5.75%	-0.01%
12 months	6.00%	-0.01%

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US COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price	Change
Crude Oil	22.50	-0.25
Natural Gas	1.50	-0.05

LONDON COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price	Change
Crude Oil	22.50	-0.25
Natural Gas	1.50	-0.05

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Metal	Price	Change
Copper	1.50	-0.05
Aluminum	1.20	-0.02

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Metal	Price	Change
Copper	1.50	-0.05
Aluminum	1.20	-0.02

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Company	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	17.5	-0.5
Bank Hapoalim	18.5	-0.5
Bank Mizrahi	19.5	-0.5

ISRAELI DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Company	Price	Change
Apple	100.00	-1.00
Microsoft	200.00	-2.00
IBM	150.00	-1.50

Market comes to life but returns to old ways

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

Index	Value	Change
Two-Sided index	164.43	-0.12%
Maof index	166.72	-0.16%
Karam index	142.61	-1.00%

YESTERDAY was the day of the rally that petered out. The market opened weakly in the morning, continued its poor showing in the early afternoon, and then came to life by mid-afternoon when it even registered price rises. This did not last, however, and by the end of trading, declines were again the order of the day. The Two-Sided index declined 0.1 percent and the Maof fell by 0.2 percent. Only the Karam posted a sharp 1 percent decline. Turnover was somewhat higher than "usual" at NIS 89 million.

The market was shaken by the report that Finance Minister Avraham Shohat called for a press conference at 6:00 p.m. There were rumors that the conference was related to Dovrat Shrem's petition to the Supreme Court that the new Capital Gains Tax Law be applied only to those securities purchased after January 1. An even more far-fetched rumor was that Shohat was going to announce the government had decided to go along with the Dovrat Shrem position. This was enough to light a fire and push investors to buy.

A rally of some sort has been expected for a while. Prices have declined sharply in recent weeks - the Two-Sided is below 170 and the Karam index is slightly above 140. These prices were expected to attract investors, however, investors seem to want to be anywhere but on the market. They are apparently waiting for January 15 when the Supreme Court will announce its decision on the Dovrat Shrem petition.

There was relative balance between winners and losers on the Two-Sided market: 32 rises and 49 declines. This was a clear change from previous days, when declines dominated. However, there were sharper rises and declines than usual. On the down side, Evergreen declined by 9.2 percent, Evergreen declined by 9.2 percent, T-Bone Veal fell 9.8 percent, Malal was down 9.9 percent, Rogozin dropped 8.3 percent, Clal Trading fell 4.8 percent, and Meir Ezra was down 3.8 percent.

Teva dropped sharply by 4.5 percent, following a 5.5 percent drop in Tuesday's trading on the NASDAQ market. On the other hand, the sharp 5.5 percent rise for ECT Telecom did little for Clal Electronics, which rose by only 0.5 percent. ECT's \$24m. turnover was higher than its turnover on the TASE.

On the up side, Ossia was up 4 percent, ILDC rose 3 percent, Elite was up 2 percent, and Futuram rose 2.8 percent.

The bond and Treasury bill markets continued to stabilize, with the latter posting an excess of sell orders. This did not lead to price declines, since investors were still willing to pick those up at prevailing prices.

FTSE falls 11 points

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - A retracement in FTSE index futures and a near 20 point fall in the Dow left blue chip shares lower at the close, well below the days best achieved levels after bullish US inflation figures.

The FTSE 100 ended 11.0 points lower at 3,049.4. The March futures contract 22 points off at 3,064 having touched 3,103.

"Futures ruled the roost this afternoon with a 33 premium over cash but it just couldn't hold, there's not the conviction around," one institutional share trader said. "I don't think fund managers have decided how to treat this market. We're going to bounce around here for some time," he added.

FRANKFURT - German shares shed early weakness to end yesterday's bourse session higher as German debt prices turned to gains around midday.

The 30-share DAX index ended the bourse session 9.95 points higher at 2,061.05.

Afternoon computer trade saw the IBIS-indicated DAX pick up a brief upturn in debt prices, but the index slipped back to end the afternoon barely changed.

While dealers welcomed the bourse's moderate gain, they cautioned that worries about the weak dollar and the Mexican currency crisis were continuing to unsettle investors.

Among stocks in the news, Volkswagen AG suffered from reports the German car maker will suspend production in Mexico for one week due both to the Mexican currency crisis and lack-luster auto sales.

Pharmaceuticals company Schering AG gained 17.50 marks to 1,024 helped by news the company had been granted a patent to manufacture a new variety of the multiple-sclerosis drug beta-interferon in the US.

PARIS - French shares finished lower for the third consecutive session this week, after attempting to rebound late on Tuesday and failing to hold gains yesterday. The market had been struggling to rally after an easy opening and rose after US CPI data reassured debt markets. But traders said foreign selling of French bonds in late afternoon helped drag equities to end softer. The CAC-40 index closed down 10.06, or 0.54 percent, at 1,849.13.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks closed a little firmer, with prices supported by arbitrage-linked buying and by foreign investors' buying of large-capital issues. The Nikkei average ended up 47.02 points or 0.24 percent at 19,548.47.

HONG KONG - Hong Kong Stocks staged a dramatic late reversal, surrendering hefty early gains to close sharply lower on renewed rumors about Chinese patriarch Deng Xiaoping's deteriorating health. The blue-chip Hang Seng Index plunged 148.97 points or 1.98 percent to close at 7,392.75.

Dow cuts earlier losses

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks cut their losses at the close yesterday, spurred by a big recovery in the battered Mexican stocks.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average retained a modest loss at the close of 4.71 points at 3,862.03 after rebounding from an early setback of more than 25.00 points.

In the broader market, declining issues led advances by a small margin on active trading of more than 345 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFR	FFf
MARK	0.1707/4	65.05/6	0.6384/7	3.4533/38
STERLING	2.3688/75	165.89/97	2.0086/15	8.2718/47
YEN	1.5263/78	0.6410/18	1.2880/96	5.3040/17
SFR	0.2884/97	0.1207/08	1.8228/81	0.2425/30
FFf	0.2884/97	0.1207/08	1.8228/81	0.2425/30

Eilat bows out of Korac Cup

STUNG by a flurry of accurate 3-pointers, Hapoel Eilat was beaten 82-74 by Stefanel Milano last night, eliminating the club from this season's Korac Cup competition.

Milano and first-place finishers Caceres of Spain will advance to the quarter-finals from Group D, with the Israelis left to lick their wounds and try to reach the Final Four of the National Basketball League.

The score does not reflect the terrific fight put up by the Eilatians against a team with an enormous height advantage and a far stronger bench. Spurred on by their wildly excited 800-strong crowd, Eilat advanced to 5-2 and then to 9-7 within the first five minutes.

Eilat kept its lead for most of the half and things looked especially good when Milano's captain and ace shooter, Ferdinando Gentile, went off with three fouls.

The Italians, however, switched to an orthodox 1-3-1 defense which rattled Eilat's attack. On the other side of the court, Flavio Portaluppi sank 3-pointers, seemingly without taking aim. He finished the half with 15 points — five 3-pointers in as many attempts.

As a result, Milano had a half-time lead of 36-31, but it could have been less if Eilat had been more successful with its free throws.

Eilat stormed back into the game and scored 15-7 in the first part of the second half, thus taking a short-lived 46-43 lead. Ari Rosenberg, Willie Sims and Andrew Kennedy all took advantage of Milano's defensive holes to score easy baskets.

The dangerous Gentile, still warming the bench with three fouls, was joined by Yugoslav Dejan Bodiroga who also

JOEL GORDIN

notched a third foul. But Milano still had Portaluppi who hit another pair of 3-pointers in a period when Milano went ahead 62-52. Their main weapon was once again the lethal 1-3-1 defense which kept the Israeli offense floundering and uncertain.

Milano's coach Bogdan Tanjevic then brought back Gentile and Bodiroga — fouls and all — and went for the kill. Eilat fought back valiantly and Rosenberg and Kennedy continued to keep the club in the game, never allowing the Italians to relax. But Gentile, Bodiroga and Davide Pessina started shooting 3-pointers as if they were competing in a

duck shoot.

The visitors had a 62 percent average from 3-point land — and 92% from the foul line. It's difficult to fault figures like that, but Eilat went down fighting, trying to return basket for basket.

Eilat (2-4) finished third in Group D, behind Caceres (5-1) which beat Greece's Peristeri 91-86 last night, and Milano (3-3). Peristeri also ended up with a 2-4 mark, but Eilat takes third based on point aggregate.

For Eilat, an excellent Rosenberg had his finest hour with 26 points, Kennedy hit 12, Brian Rowsom 11 and Sims 9. For Milano, Portaluppi notched 24, Bodiroga 20, Gentile and Pessina 15 apiece.

Mac TA vs. Saloniki tonight

"FROM our point of view, the deciding matches are starting," said Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball coach Muli Kazurin yesterday as the team left for tonight's eighth game of the European Club Championships' final pool against hosts PAOK Saloniki.

After half of the 14 games, Maccabi is 4-3. The Israeli champions still have a fighting chance to be one of the four teams in the eight-team group to advance to the next stage.

Kazurin's expanded on his point: "In the first round, we knew we always had a chance to correct ourselves. Now we don't. For example, we lost to PAOK at Yad Eliyahu in the first round (4-75). Now we must beat them, even in front of the frighteningly partisan Saloniki spectators."

The teams are basically evenly-matched, both on the outside and under the boards. Maccabi's chances will depend mainly on the defense's ability to halt the prolific PAOK scorers — national team playmaker John Korfas, Yugoslav Branslav Prelovic and American Jerrod Mustaf. The Israelis will also have to keep their cool and watch their free throws if the game goes down to the wire.

At Yad Eliyahu, Maccabi's defense floundered and let Korfas and Mustaf build up a comfortable lead. Maccabi managed to almost draw even, but the offense went to pieces in the final crucial minute.

Since then, however, Maccabi has come a long way and both Norris Coleman and Radisav Curcic have improved by leaps and bounds. It is no wonder that Saloniki is taking the game seriously. Coach Dragon Sakuma called a press conference on Tuesday to declare dramatically: "We must win. We have no other choice."

The game will be shown live on ITV from 10 pm Joel Gordin.

Players accept owners offer, clear way for season's start



NEW YORK

(AP) — Leaders of the National Hockey League players' union accepted the owners' latest

contract offer yesterday, ending the 103-day lockout and saving the North American ice hockey season.

"We're happy that hockey is hopefully going to be played very soon," NHL Players' Association president Mike Gartner said in making the announcement outside the union's Toronto office.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said he was "thrilled that this is over and we can get behind us."

"It was important that the league come together with the players... to take this league to the great heights that it can come to. I retain the optimism that I've always had for the future of this

sport," Bettman said.

Gartner said a ratification vote on the six-year agreement still must be held among the union's approximately 700 members and that no practices would begin until the ratification was complete.

Bettman said the season would start late next week, probably with a 48-game season per team and four full playoff rounds. The NHL normally plays an 84-game schedule per team.

Negotiations have until noon (7:00 pm Israel time) on Friday to finalize all the details of the contract, said Glenn Sather, general manager of the Edmonton Oilers. Training camps could not open until then, he said.

"We thought it was a good deal," said Bob Corkum, player representative for the Anaheim Mighty Ducks.

Union leader Bob Goodenow and the executive committee have recommended that the players accept the agreement and they will vote on it by secret bal-

lot over the next two days, Bettman said.

The announcement came a day after a marathon session in New York of hard bargaining, proposals, counter-proposals and intense conference calls, with free agency the last major obstacle.

"Are we happy about the scars that have been created for the game of hockey?" asked Gartner. "Are we happy about losing millions of dollars? Are we happy about the relations between owners and players has been severely hindered?"

"No we're not happy about that. But we're happy that hockey is hopefully going to be played very soon."

The lockout began over the owners' demand for cap on players' salaries, but in the end, free agency was by far the most contentious issue.

The owners didn't want players to become unrestricted free agents until after they turned 32 years old but the players wanted

it at 30. The contract the owners sent to players offered free agency at 32 in the first three years and at 31 in the last three.

Because either side has the right to scrap the agreement after the 1997-98 season, there might be only one year in which 31-year-olds have complete freedom.

Other key components of the contract:

● Three salary arbitration cases in each two-year period that clubs can reject if the players receive awards of at least \$550,000. Clubs can reject no more than two in any one year.

● An \$850,000 salary cap for first-round draft picks, increasing annually.

● A draft for 19-year-olds, with 18-year-olds having the option to get in.

"I still have mixed feelings," Corkum said. "A lot of guys will be hurt. But something had to be done. We didn't think it was worth missing a season for it."

Hussein keeps crown

JOEL GORDIN

ETHIOPIA'S Ahmed Hussein successfully defended his crown as Tiberias Marathon champion yesterday, winning in 2 hours 15 minutes 10 seconds.

His third win in five years was slightly slower than last year's 2:14:52 and 50 seconds off the course record of 2:14:02 set by South Africa's Ken Shaw in 1978.

The best Israeli — and the new national marathon champion — was Assaf Bimro, 26, from Eilat-Haifa who finished in 2:17:12. Reigning champion Dov Cremer, did not compete.

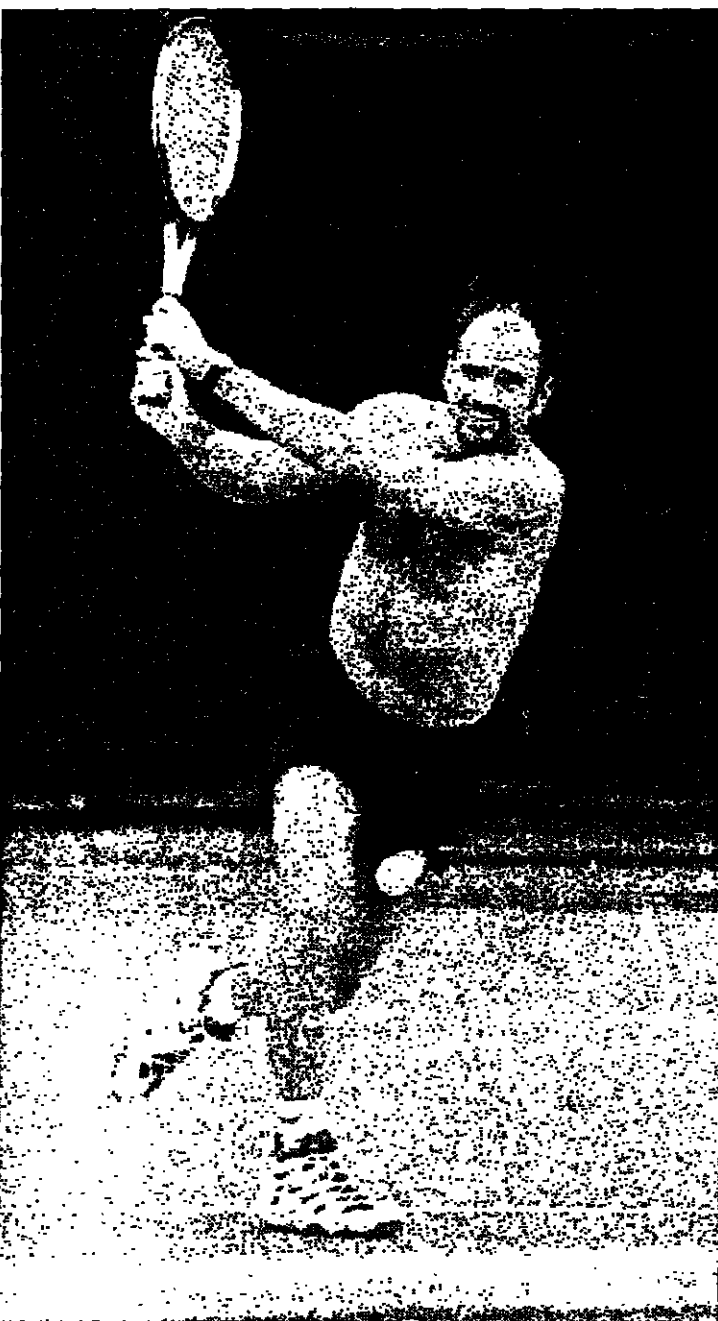
It is the fifth year in succession that an Ethiopian has won the event. About 300 took part in the 42.195 km. (26 miles, 375 yards) race, which was held in perfect, crisp, sunny weather.

Hussein and countryman Assefa Adaw, 23, led the 300-strong field for the entire scenic course,

from Tiberias to Ein Gedi and back. Only towards the end were they strongly challenged by Bimro, an Israeli of Ethiopian origin competing in his third marathon. Bimro, however, apparently hurt his leg and fell back to finish behind Adaw (2:16:10) and Russia's 35-year-old Antony Krapov (2:16:21).

Bimro said afterwards that he was excited at having beaten the 2:20:00 mark for the first time. The top woman runner was 40-year-old Tatiana Limonova from Moldova (2:56:38), followed by Ayelet Shviro of Maccabi Tel Aviv (2:59:32), now the national women's champion. It was the first time Shviro has broken three hours. Reigning women's champion Lolly Leibowitz did not participate.

Hussein, a policeman, received a prize of \$3,000.



US Open champ Andre Agassi, sporting a new haircut, trains for the Australian Open which begins on Monday. Agassi, who will take part in his first Down Under Grand Slam, is seeded 2nd behind defending champion Pete Sampras. In the women's race, Steffi Graf's injury means US and French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain will be the top seed. (Reuters)

Bulls wave their Magic wand

CHICAGO (AP) — Even though coach Brian Hill's Orlando Magic lead the NBA with 26 victories and have the league's top scorer in Shaquille O'Neal, the Chicago Bulls weren't impressed.

"We were outcoached, outplayed and outthrust. We were beat in every phase of the game,"

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	26	7	.788	—
New York	19	12	.613	6
Boston	13	19	.406	12.5
New Jersey	13	23	.361	14.5
Miami	10	21	.323	18
Philadelphia	10	21	.323	18
Washington	7	26	.219	18.5

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	25	11	.686	—
Charlotte	20	12	.625	5
Indiana	19	12	.613	1.5
Chicago	17	15	.531	4
Atlanta	15	19	.441	7
Detroit	10	20	.333	10
Memphis	10	22	.313	11

Hill said after his visiting Magic were trampled by Chicago 109-77 Tuesday night.

It was only the Magic's second loss in 11 games and fifth in the last 25. And the 77 points by Orlando, which entered the game leading the league in scoring with a 114-point scoring average, was a season low.

Scottie Pippen led the rampaging Bulls with 26 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds. And he pointed to the return of a former teammate, Horace Grant, who now plays for Orlando.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS:
Atlanta 99, Washington 96
Charlotte 116, Cleveland 106 (OT)
Detroit 96, New Jersey 84
New York 117, Indiana 105
Sacramento 96, Minnesota 85
Chicago 109, Orlando 77
San Antonio 106, LA Clippers 97
Seattle 128, Golden State 118 (OT)

Kobe 117, Pacers 105

John Starks hit a team record-tying eight 3-pointers and finished with 31 points for host New York.

Patrick Ewing and Charles Smith each scored 19 points, and Derek Harper had 16 points and 13 assists for the Knicks.

Indiana's Reggie Miller almost matched Starks, pacing the Pacers with 28 points.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	22	10	.688	—
Houston	20	10	.667	1
San Antonio	19	10	.652	1.5
Denver	16	15	.516	5.5
Dallas	14	16	.463	8.5
Minnesota	8	28	.286	18.5

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	25	7	.781	—
Seattle	22	9	.710	2.5
LA Lakers	20	10	.667	4
Sacramento	18	13	.581	6.5
Portland	17	14	.549	7.5
Golden State	10	20	.333	14
LA Clippers	5	27	.156	20

Liverpool, Palace in semis

LONDON (Reuters) — Veteran Welsh international Ian Rush secured Liverpool's place in the English League Cup semifinals with the only goal in its clash with Arsenal yesterday.

Rush struck after 59 minutes to send Liverpool through to the last four where it was joined by fellow Premier League club Crystal Palace and two First Division clubs, Swindon and Bolton.

Palace overwhelmed Manchester City, also of the Premier League, 4-0 while Swindon beat First Division rivals Millwall 1-0 and Bolton overcame Premier League Norwich 1-0.

Palace blitzed City in the final half hour of its tie at Selhurst Park.

Darren Pitcher opened their account after 60 minutes and John Salako, Chris Armstrong and substitute Andy Preece completed the rout with goals in the final 11 minutes.

Bolton, renowned cup fighters, bounced back from its unexpected FA Cup exit at Portsmouth last Saturday by beating its higher-ranked opponents with a 66th-minute goal by David Lee.

Winger Lee's thunderous shot added Norwich to Liverpool, Arsenal, Everton and Aston Villa on the list of clubs beaten by Bolton in the past two seasons.

Meanwhile yesterday, World record-breaking goalkeeper Peter Shilton quit his first managerial job at Plymouth Argyle amid a controversy over his private financial problems.

Last week Plymouth suspended the 45-year-old former England 'keeper because he had failed to pay a tax demand stemming from his signing-on fee.

The Sports Pages are edited by Joe Hoffman

Seems like old times for streaking Steelers

Cowboys' Smith questionable starter

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers haven't been on a roll like this since they fished for Super Bowl rings almost yearly. One loss in 2 1/2 months, and that game really didn't matter.

Their only loss was to the San Diego Chargers, the same team they'll play in Sunday's American Football Conference's championship game at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh.

"Win one more, and you're in the Super Bowl, and that's what you're in this business for. One more, and you're in the big show," said quarterback Neil O'Donnell.

The Steelers aren't making excuses for their 37-34 loss in San Diego on Christmas Eve, a defeat that stopped a seven-game winning streak but apparently didn't slow their momentum. After a week off, they beat the Cleveland Browns 29-9 to reach their first AFC title game in 10 years, and the first in Pittsburgh since the 1979 season.

Rod Woodson, Greg Lloyd, Eric Green and John L. Williams sat out that game with injuries, and several others, including O'Donnell, played only a quarter or two. Now they're all ready.

No matter the season, no matter the weather, Pittsburgh hasn't been hospitable to San Diego. The Chargers are 1-9 there, with the only win coming in a playoff game during the strike-interrupted 1982 season.

Meanwhile, the Cowboys are worrying about Emmitt Smith.

The Dallas Cowboys have lost three games in the last two years without Smith, but none of those games were as important as this Sunday's National Football Conference championship game

against San Francisco.

Smith is undergoing round-the-clock treatment for a "twinge" he felt in his left hamstring during Sunday's 35-9 playoff romp over the Green Bay Packers.

Coach Barry Switzer said the leg was "so-so."

"There's not much swelling in the leg," Switzer said. "But I'm not optimistic. I told the team we're going to win with or without him."

The Cowboys probably won't know until the kickoff whether Smith will be able to play on a soggy and slick Candlestick Park field that took a pounding last week when the 49ers beat Chicago.

In off-field action, the Los Angeles Rams are close to an agreement for a move to St. Louis, the Los Angeles Times reported yesterday.

The move, which would require NFL approval at the annual March owners' meetings in Phoenix, might also include the sale of 40 percent of the team to Stan Kroenke, a Missouri businessman with family ties to Wal-Mart department stores, who would pay \$80 million.

Details and paperwork appear to be the only obstacles keeping the NFL team from announcing their move from California.

St. Louis has built a \$260m, 70,000-seat domed stadium hoping to bring pro football back to the city.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

(all times Israel)
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15
AFC — San Diego at Pittsburgh 7:30 pm
NFC — Dallas at San Francisco 11:00 pm
(Sports Channel will broadcast both games back-to-back on a tape delay starting at 11:30 pm. A repeat is scheduled for 7:30-11:30 am Monday.)

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MONTHLY (24 insertions) NIS 528.50 10 words (minimum) each additional word — NIS 52.85

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GENERAL

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IAF short NIS 400m. a year – senior officer

48 F-16s have arrived from US

THE air force needs an additional NIS 400 million annually to meet its multi-year expansion goals, the head of the force's equipment and logistics branch, Brig.-Gen. Amnon Harari, said yesterday.

Assuming the air force budget will not be increased in the next several years, the total budget shortage will reach NIS 2 billion by the year 2000, when the "Mir-kam 2000" multi-year plan ends, Harari told reporters at an air force base in the South.

Of the 50 surplus F-16s the US gave Israel last year, 48 have arrived and two are expected to be here by the end of the month. Their communications systems are being upgraded, as is the software for the plane's seven computers. By year's end they should all be operational.

A new squadron was estab-

ALON PINKAS

lished for the F-16s. The squadron commander, Lt.-Col. H. said the planes, which arrived from US Air Force and Air National Guard units in Arizona, are in remarkably good shape.

"These are 1979-1980 vintage jets, but they flew very few combat missions or simulations. They also flew considerably fewer hours than you would expect from 14-year-old jets," said H.

"They have the best maneuverability in the air force fleet. We've assigned them to defend the skies, i.e. air combat."

The air force will fly more this year than it did in 1994, he said, and the addition of the F-16s means that more younger pilots will be trained on them earlier in their careers.

Harari said that while the air

force has no problem attracting and keeping high quality technological personnel, there is a broader problem of technological education in Israel.

"This is a national problem affecting the air force, as well as the navy and the ground forces. I presented the problem to the education minister and I think it can be effectively dealt with," he said.

Harari also said the air force is now better able to prevent a recurrence of another Rami Dotan incident. Dotan, one of Harari's predecessors, is serving a 13-year sentence for embezzlement committed while he was the air force's chief procurement officer in New York. Harari said control, supervision, and bidding procedures have been enhanced. He said he is convinced the Dotan affair was a case of one corrupt man, not an entire flawed system.



Newly elected National Religious Party secretary-general Zevulun Orlev (left) confers with party elder statesman Josef Burg at the NRP convention in Tel Aviv yesterday. (Alon Ron/Israel Sun)

Global rates set for hospitalization

JUDY SIEGEL

HEALTH funds will now pay NIS 5,250 for the hospitalization of a member in an internal-medicine department, no matter how many days he or she is treated there. In addition, if a patient returns to the same hospital within a week of discharge, he will be hospitalized at no extra cost to the insurer.

The new global rate health funds will have to pay for hospitalization of members in internal medicine departments was announced by the Health Ministry yesterday, in addition to a 13.18 percent increase in per diem hospitalization rates for other departments and for outpatient care.

The rates were approved by the health and finance ministers and went into effect January 1. The global fee affects 18 public hospitals around the country.

Responding to charges that hospitals would thereby be encouraged to "kick out" elderly patients before their treatment had been com-

pleted, Health Ministry director of medical services Dr. Yitzhak Berlovich said last night that differential payments for surgery instead of the per diem fee had, since 1991, not induced hospitals to halt treatment prematurely. The system will be well supervised to ensure this does not occur, Berlovich said.

If the patient's medical treatment has ended and his discharge is delayed due to administrative reasons connected to his health fund (in order to find a long-term institution or to organize home care, for example), the insurer will pay a per diem rate instead of the global rate, so as not to overload the internal-medicine departments. The Health Ministry also set a global fee for an emergency room visit – NIS 320 – for all tests and treatments.

Obstetrical care is now in the basket of health services covered by national health in-

urance. However, the ministry has asked the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee to have payments for deliveries and premature-baby care returned to the National Insurance Institute, because the health funds could sign deals with certain hospitals and refuse to refer women to others.

Kupat Holim Clalit announced last night it would give complete freedom of choice to pregnant members; they will be allowed to give birth in any hospital they choose, as has been the practice until now.

In the meantime, the insurer will pay the hospital NIS 4,171 for each delivery and an additional NIS 43,352 for every premature baby.

The ministry is also limiting the annual number of hospitalizations per bed in day hospitals to up to 500 days (or two patients a day) instead of the formerly unlimited number.

Army R&D budget down 43%

EVELYN GORDON

THE portion of the defense budget devoted to research and development has recently dropped by about 43 percent, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat told the State Control Committee's subcommittee on the IDF yesterday.

Ben-Porat warned that this not only dented the army from exploring potentially promising new areas of research, but made it difficult to continue work on existing projects. The ultimate result, she said, will be increased dependence on foreign countries for military technology, at a time

when most industrialized countries are becoming increasingly unwilling to share such knowledge.

A committee set up to advise the defense minister on military R&D, she said, has also warned that there is a real danger of an erosion of the IDF's technological infrastructure.

Subcommittee chairman, Uzi Landau (Likud) said the comptroller's findings – coupled with Treasury statements that wages are eating up an increasing por-

tion of the defense budget – paint a disturbing picture of an army pampering its staff at the expense of the technological edge which is critical to its success.

Landau said he would hold another committee meeting on R&D needs with the director-general of the Defense Ministry, the head of the IDF's Planning Branch, and the heads of the defense industries. The discussion, he said, would be aimed at forcing a re-examination of the defense budget, with an eye toward skimming off some of the fat in the personnel budget.

Army wants J-Stars

THE IDF wants the US-made J-Stars surveillance and intelligence aircraft, a senior army source said last night.

The source said that the J-Stars is on a list of military hardware Israel presented to the US as part of a possible compensation package intended to enhance security and deterrence in the event of a Syrian-Israeli agreement involving territorial concessions on the Golan Heights.

The list, presented to the Pentagon by former chief of general staff Ehud Barak, also includes access to more US satellite intelligence data, and highly sophisticated simulation computers.

Alon Pinkas

C'tee wants state comptroller to oversee Histadrut

EVELYN GORDON

THE Histadrut and other workers' associations will soon be subject to inspection by the state comptroller, according to a bill approved in principle by the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

The final vote on the bill will be held next week, after a few technical changes in the wording are drafted. It will then be sent to the plenum for its second and third readings.

The bill, by Limor Livnat and David Mena (Likud), provided a rare example of Knesset unity, being supported by members of all parties. The new Histadrut leadership also supported the bill.

In contrast, the government, the State Comptroller's Office and the committee's legal adviser all opposed the bill, on the grounds that the comptroller should not be involved in overseeing non-governmental institutions.

The committee, however, agreed with Livnat and Mena that the Histadrut is too big, and plays too dominant a role in Israeli life to be left unsupervised. Other workers' associations, such as Hapoel Hamizrabi, Hahistadrut Halcumit and Poalei Agudat Yisrael, were included in the law to avoid charges of discrimination.

The law gives the comptroller the power to investigate any aspect of the Histadrut except for its work as a trade union. Trade union activities were omitted both because of an international treaty banning government interference in unions and because committee members became convinced that such interference would be improper.

Even with respect to the trade unions, however, the comptroller will have the authority to demand information and documentation if she feels it is necessary for an investigation.

Hotel approved for Mandelbaum Gate site

JERUSALEM'S city planning committee this week overwhelmingly approved a plan to build a third new hotel at the new Mandelbaum Gate compound.

The 250-room hotel is to be built alongside two similarly sized hotels already approved for the site, just off Route 1 alongside the former border crossing be-

tween east and west Jerusalem.

The city agreed to allow the investor to build six floors, one floor more than zoning regulations permit. The other two hotels will also likely ask to go to six floors, and the city comply will probably with the request.

Work is already underway on the first two hotels. Bill Humean

New National Health Council meets

JUDY SIEGEL

IN its first meeting, the National Health Council yesterday endorsed Health Minister Ephraim Sneh's request to recommend a change in the formula for updating the basket of health services for 1996.

He said it should include the rise in health workers' pay, rather than the average increase in all public sector wages; population growth; and increased costs for medical technology.

The new formula must be approved by the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee.

The 46-member council, with representatives from the government, health unions, health funds, voluntary organizations, IDF, and other public bodies, is charged with advising the health minister on all aspects of the new national health insurance system. It will convene again in three months, or sooner if necessary.

Although there was no opposi-

tion to Sneh's proposal for changing the basket formula, many members expressed unease with the new universal health insurance system.

Prof. Oded Abramsky, representing medical school deans, charged that the council itself is unrepresentative, and does not include enough doctors. He also warned that medical research would lose out as insurers and hospitals are forced to run according to strict economic criteria.

Uzi Salant, director-general of the Meuhedet health fund, blamed the Health Ministry for public "confusion" about the new system. It should have been explained consistently and clearly, he argued. He added that the smaller health funds urgently need government subsidies, because they will receive health tax-

es from the National Insurance Institute only at the end of every month, while they previously got membership fees at the beginning of each month.

Ministry director-general Professor Mordechai Shani responded that the health funds could take loans and include the interest charges in the basket of services.

Shani insisted that the health system will not undergo privatization, but that it would be required to become more efficient. The big fight, said Shani, will be over the resources society is willing to spend on health services. He agreed that there was public confusion over the new system and that a better job should have been done to explain it. He also expected the council to recommend guidelines on supplementary health insurance, which will become a major issue in the future.

Beilin denies Oman is halting plans for ties with Israel

DAVID MAKOVSKY

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin yesterday denied reports that Oman has put plans to establish formal links with Israel on hold.

The reports said Oman has pulled back because of a belief that Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria decided at their recent summit in Alexandria to slow down Arab normalization with Israel so Damascus does not feel isolated. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has denied this.

Beilin dismissed the reports as an "untrue leak." He said relations with Oman are heading in the "direction of more formal ties."

"We have maintained contact with Oman, and we still expect to establish some form of relations, such as an economic interest sec-

tion, this month," another Foreign Ministry official said.

He declined to name the third country that would host the section in its embassy.

While reports said Bruce Kashdan, the Foreign Ministry official who heads ties with Gulf states, returned discouraged from the Gulf this week, officials said he had not visited the area in two weeks.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin paid a quiet visit to Oman last month, and met the nation's leader, Sultan Qaboos Bin Said.

However, sources say a covert relationship between the two countries dates back to the mid-1970s. Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu said that Oman's foreign minister secretly visited Israel in 1987.

Rabin: Media reports hamper GSS

ALON PINKAS

RECENT media reports on various aspects of the General Security Service's work directly hamper its activities, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday.

In a statement issued by his office, Rabin expressed his reservations regarding both reports on infighting among the GSS brass and leaks from the state comptroller's report on flawed GSS reporting procedures.

Rabin said that media coverage of these issues is "irresponsible and inaccurate, and damages the GSS's ability to perform its tasks of combating terrorism."

He also said he "has the utmost confidence in the GSS, its head, and its reports."

As for the criticism in the comptroller's report, Rabin said he "will reply after he receives the GSS's answers to his questions."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rabin to meet Hussein soon

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will meet Jordan's King Hussein soon to discuss implementing further stages of the peace treaty, Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said yesterday. "I can confirm that they will meet soon," Ben-Ami said, when asked about an Israel Television report the two were to meet. He would not give a time or place for the meeting or elaborate on its agenda. Israel Radio reported that the two would meet next week in Amman.

Honor for Lithuanian president's parents

Yad Vashem has decided to honor the parents of Lithuanian President Adolphas Sleszevicius as Righteous Gentiles. The award will be accorded to the late Vidas and Ursula Sleszevicius on the basis of testimony from two survivors living in Israel, Rachel Katzav and Shlomo Katz, as well as Hana and Feige Katz who are still in Lithuania.

For three months, the couple cared for the five Jews and even prepared kosher food for them. When villagers threatened to burn the house, they refused to give up the Jews, who nevertheless decided to flee to the forests, returning from time to time to get food. Sometimes, they would sleep in the house.

Agmon takes on Habimah post

Veteran theater producer Ya'acov Agmon last night announced that he would accept the post of general manager of the troubled Habimah theater. He said that he would take up his position once the resignations of current general manager Dr. David Alexander and artistic director Gary Bilu are finalized. Agmon currently heads his own production company, Bimot 2000, and for the last three years has also headed the Acre Theater Festival and has produced the successful TheaterNetto one-person play festival since 1990.

Broadcasting levy for 1995 up 13 percent

The television and radio license fee for 1995 will be NIS 363, a 13% increase over last year's payment, IBA chairman Micha Yonin announced yesterday. "We didn't even keep up with inflation, which was 1.5-2% more," he said, adding that the Knesset will not approve the levy until it sees the IBA's budget, which is due to be debated at next week's plenum meeting.

Lod man convicted of raping wife

A woman's body is not her husband's property, a Tel Aviv District Court judge ruled yesterday while convicting a 45-year-old Lod man of raping his wife.

"A wife is also entitled to respect from her husband," said Judge Oded Muddrick.

The court heard that last February the man arrived home drunk and demanded to have sex with his wife. When she refused, he raped her. The woman testified that during their 20 years of marriage, her husband would beat and rape her.

In his defense, the man said he was not aware that a woman was allowed to refuse sex with her lawful husband.

A sentencing date was set for January 24.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the nine of spades, queen of hearts, ace of diamonds, and eight of clubs.

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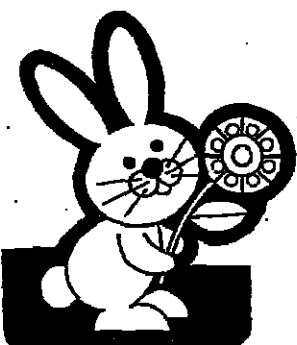
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MAZADA TOURS

Baker: Only extremists say no to US on Golan

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

THOSE against stationing US troops on the Golan Heights are "extremists" seeking to upset Israeli-Syrian negotiations, former secretary of state James Baker said here yesterday.

Appearing before the House International Relations Committee, Baker urged the administration "to do everything we possibly can" to help bring about a deal — including dispatching US troops — because the "window of opportunity is not going to remain open forever."

"Above all else," he said, "we should resist efforts by extremists on both sides to subvert and torpedo the peace process, and that would include efforts to preemptively rule out, before the facts are presented, such things as the possibility of American monitors or peacekeepers on the Golan."

"That is an issue that ought to be debated and looked at when it is ripe, and it won't be ripe until the parties themselves say: 'This is what we want,'" Baker said.

Baker's attacks went further than the position taken by the current administration.

President Bill Clinton and other senior officials have said it is premature to discuss the issue now, since neither Israel nor Syria has officially made the request.

Asked later why he considers opponents of the idea extremists, Baker said: "Because I don't think we ought to rule out anything if the parties come to us and ask. And I said if Israel and Syria should come to us and request monitors or peacekeepers, we should certainly consider their request."

However, Baker refused to discuss who he thought was pressuring the administration.



One of the two men stabbed near Hebron yesterday, David Hadad, is brought to Hadassah Hospital.

(Brian Hendler)

Terrorist stabs two Kiryat Arba residents

HERB KEINON

THE IDF continued to search last night for the terrorist who stabbed two Kiryat Arba men in a hardware store at the Zuhait Junction just north of Hebron yesterday afternoon.

David Hadad, 23, was wounded in the head and the back, and listed in serious condition at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem. The other man, Mark Ohayun, 28, was listed in satisfactory condition with back and shoulder wounds.

Hadad and Ohayun, both French immigrants, walked unarmed into the shop at about noon. Israel Radio reported last night that Ohayun had his gun taken away a few months ago, and that a recent request to have it returned was refused.

A Kiryat Arba source said that after the Hebron massacre last February, authorities identified a number of Kiryat Arba residents

as "potential trouble-makers" and took away their weapons.

Kiryat Arba Local Council head Zvi Katzover said it was "irresponsible" for Hadad and Ohayun to walk around unarmed.

"There are orders to walk around only with a gun, and to minimize commercial dealings with the locals," Katzover said. "But this does not justify trying to kill the two."

According to Moshe Ariel, commander of the Hebron police station, the two were attacked by a single terrorist. "A local resident parked his car in front of the store and went inside. When he heard them speaking Hebrew, he took out a knife and attacked them," Ariel said. The terrorist then fled in his car.

The wounded men ran from the store toward Kiryat Arba but collapsed in a field,

where Hebron resident Basam Kapisha found them.

"I saw two settlers bleeding on the ground," Kapisha told Israel Radio. "I asked them what happened, and they said they were hurt and wanted to be taken to Kupat Holim. I called El Ahal Hospital, put them in my car, and drove in the direction of the hospital."

On the way, Kapisha saw a civil administration officer and told him what happened. The officer summoned troops and a search of the area began. The wounded were treated by medics and then taken to the hospital.

Later Katzover asked OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran and OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ofir to restore a nearby IDF checkpoint that was removed about a week ago. Three Jews were shot by terrorists in a passing car last February near the site.

PM, Hussein agree on next peace moves

IDF to pull back in Arava soon

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein met privately for talks in Amman last night and decided on a series of steps to speed up the peace process between the two countries, Israel Television reported.

The two agreed IDF troops would withdraw to the international border in the Arava within a month and that tourism and trade agreements would be signed within two weeks, Israel Radio reported.

Hussein said that, contrary to recent reports, he is satisfied with the pace of the peace process. "We can't change the situation overnight," the radio quoted him as saying.

The two discussed speeding up the process of reaching an agreement on Jordan Valley land claimed by Jordan, and a series of economic steps aimed at helping the Jordanians show that economic progress is being achieved through the peace agreement.

Upon arrival in Amman, Rabin introduced several officials to the king, including new Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shahak. He then met with Hussein for 75 minutes.

The meeting follows Jordanian complaints about Israel's implementation of the peace treaty.

Rabin was accompanied by a coterie of IDF officers, including OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, who heads the talks with the Palestinians on security

arrangements. Senior Israeli officials said Jordan wants to export \$30 million worth of goods — including produce, cement, and pharmaceuticals — to Israel. It also wants export quotas for the territories, reduced by last spring's Israel-PLO economic accord, to be raised.

Jordan maintains that a boost in exports will begin to prove to the Jordanian people, especially the political opposition, that there is a peace dividend.

Furthermore, officials say Israel has not yet raised the estimated \$130 million for dams on the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers which will help alleviate Jordan's water shortage.

Jerusalem has also not yet named its ambassador to Jordan. One of the contenders for the post, deputy Mossad head Ephraim Halevy, a long-time acquaintance of Hussein's, accompanied Rabin to Amman.

Other officials who accompanied Rabin were Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, chief negotiator with Jordan Elyakim Rubinstein, Rabin's military aide Maj.-Gen. Danny Yatom, Prime Minister's Office Director-General Shimon Sheves, and Rabin aides Eitan Haber and Oded Ben-Ami.

Beilin represented Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who is traveling in Latin America.

Sources said the Foreign Ministry was not informed about the meeting until it was announced.

All ministries subject to budgetary ax

JOSE ROSENFELD
and ALON PINKAS

THE Treasury will spare no ministry from its budgetary ax, as it cuts NIS 720 million to pay for the 1.9 percent reduction in the employers' health tax, and to grant working women an additional tax credit point, according to documents released yesterday.

Education will get hit the hardest, with a NIS 151m. cut, although the education budget is only the second largest budget. The Education Ministry's budget will be slashed by NIS 85m. and the higher education budget by NIS 66m. To achieve the latter cut, the Treasury will cut NIS 30m. in wages and manpower and NIS 36m. in student assistance.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said the cut would not (Continued on Page 19)

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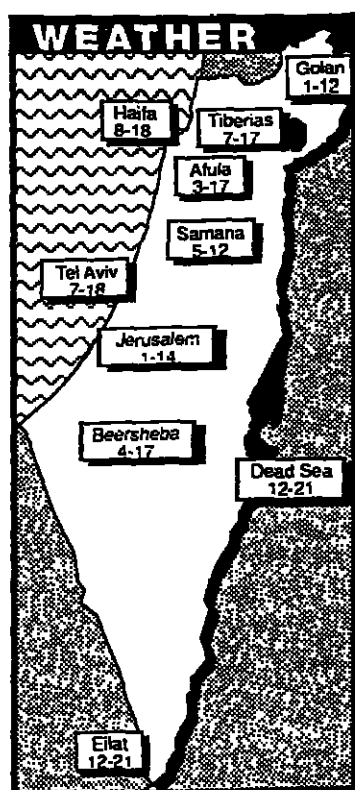
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AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	WEATHER
Amsterdam	01	05	05	cloudy
Berlin	-01	04	05	cloudy
Bombay	17	28	28	clear
Chengdu	01	05	05	cloudy
Copenhagen	01	05	05	cloudy
Frankfurt	01	05	05	cloudy
Geneva	01	05	05	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	28	28	clear
London	01	05	05	cloudy
Los Angeles	01	05	05	cloudy
Madrid	01	05	05	cloudy
Moscow	01	05	05	cloudy
New York	01	05	05	cloudy
Paris	01	05	05	cloudy
Rome	01	05	05	cloudy
Stockholm	01	05	05	cloudy
Tokyo	01	05	05	cloudy
Toronto	01	05	05	cloudy

Winning numbers and cards

In last night's Payis Hazzak drawing, the holder of ticket number 779854 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 592460 won a Honda sports car.

Tickets numbered 272191, 800880, 661122, 756576, 624132, 742989, 857417, 352041, 346453, 088341, 386168, 400574, 360023, 425964, 636160, 418428, 278140, 031575, 754796, 310056, 707933, 459198, 488851, 269135, 164081 and 504261 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 16987, 86967, 82277, 50106, 18490, 54295, 28877, 59207, 36923, 38434, 07044, 09839, 93243, 31135, 31095, 21422, 48967, 15350 and 26248 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 968, 441, 158, and 164 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 70, 67, 98 and 96 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 48, 20, 13, 22, 01, 23 and 44 won NIS 10. Tickets ending in 0 won NIS 7.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, nine of hearts, queen of diamonds, and nine of clubs.

Rabin: Major gaps still to be bridged with Syria

DAVID RUDGE

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin made it clear yesterday there are still big gaps between the Israeli and Syrian positions in the peace talks, despite progress made on the procedural level.

Rabin, who spoke to reporters during a visit to the security zone, defined the progress as the fact the Syrians had agreed to the meetings between the two countries' chiefs of staff, for the first time since the establishment of the state.

"It has still not, however, solved the main gaps between ours and the Syrian positions, and without bridging these there cannot be any progress towards achieving a peace treaty," said Rabin in Marjayoun.

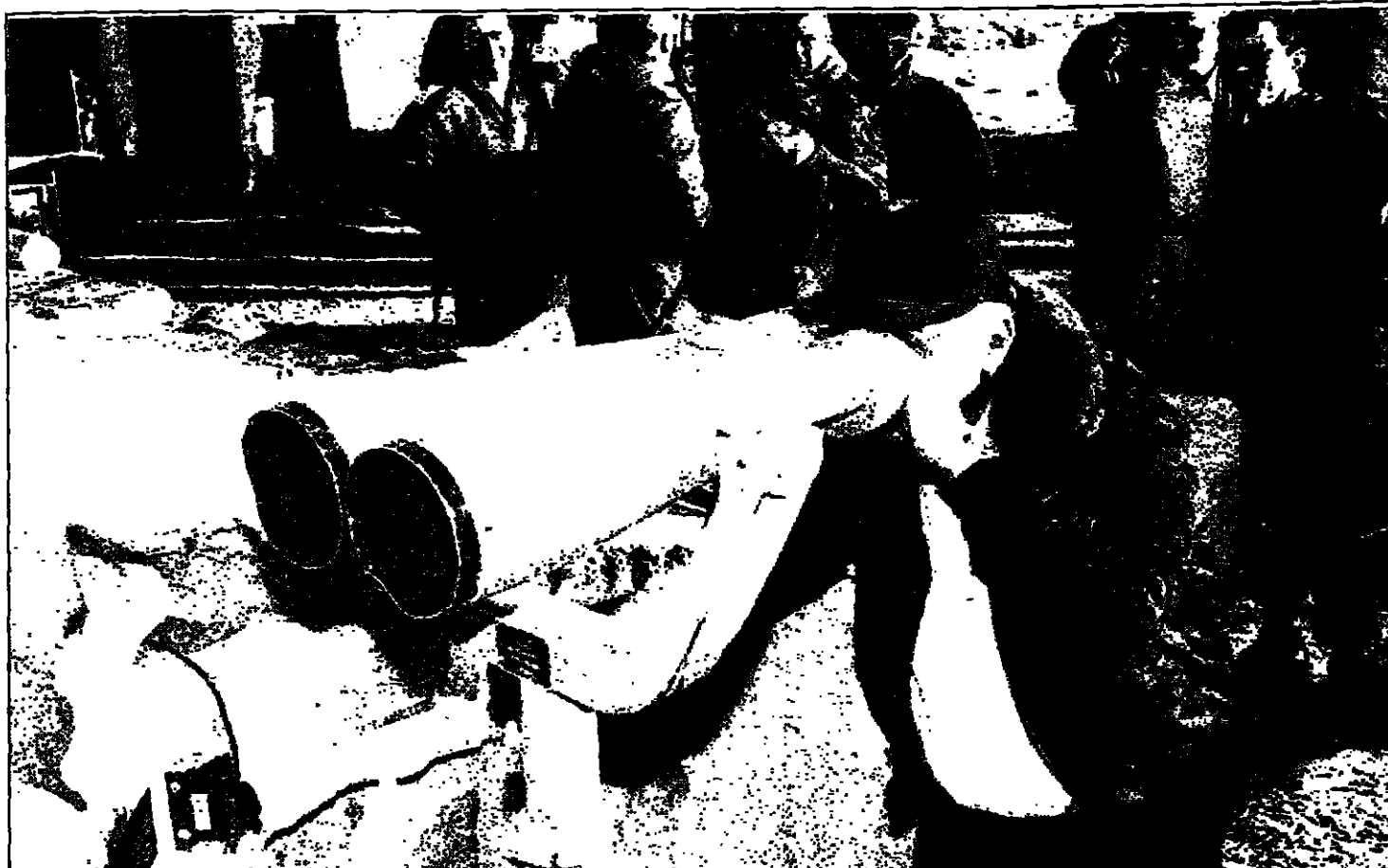
Regarding comments by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres over the improbability of reaching an agreement with the Syrians in the next six months, Rabin said he did not want to speculate about a timetable.

He also declined to comment on reports that Peres had met in Paris with a senior Syrian personality. "I don't want to go into the matter, although you'll almost certainly hear about it later," he said.

Rabin maintained it is highly unlikely the Syrians would change the current nature of the negotiations. "They are insisting there won't be bilateral negotiations without the auspices, or even the presence, of the US," he said.

Rabin said it is possible that pressure is being put on the security zone because Syria feels it is not making progress in the peace talks, while some sectors of the Arab world are showing more openness towards Israel.

However, he maintained that



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin takes a close look at the Lebanese terrain through high-powered binoculars at an IDF post during a visit to the security zone yesterday.

now is not the time to raise the question of Hizbullah's "terrorist operations" in the talks with the Syrians.

"It might be that the time to have done so was before going to the Madrid peace conference. If we raise it today as a precondition for negotiations on peace, it would be seen as if the present Israeli government is trying to

find an excuse to bring a halt to the peace negotiations with Syria," he said.

Rabin said terror activities by Hizbullah and other hostile elements, including rejectionist Palestinian organizations, could not be described as a war of attrition. He also stressed Israel will make sure the understandings reached after Operation Accountability

are adhered to by all sides, including Hizbullah.

The prime minister was accompanied on his visit to the security zone by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shahak, OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine, and the government's coordinator on Lebanon, Uri Lubrani.

He met SLA commander Gen.

Antoine Lahad and senior officers and emphasized Israel would not abandon the SLA or residents of the zone if a peace treaty is reached with Syria.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said yesterday that high level peace talks between Syria and Israel in Washington last month produced no results and he does not expect an early resumption.

IDF to redeploy from villages, not just cities

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE IDF will redeploy from many villages in the territories, as well as from major population centers, senior Israeli officials have confirmed.

They noted there are about 400 Arab villages in Judea and Samaria, but said they do not know how many will come under Palestinian Authority control during the next phase of the peace process.

One of the issues to be negotiated is whether soldiers can re-enter cities and villages from which they redeploy, either in hot pursuit or as a preemptive

measure to foil a terror attack. The IDF cannot do so in Gaza and Jericho.

The areas from which the IDF will redeploy are being decided upon by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. They are expected to meet by the end of next week.

Officials adamantly deny that, during their meeting this week, Arafat and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres actually took out maps and began demarcating areas in

which redeployment will occur.

They noted that Peres and Arafat are still talking about principles that would underlie where redeployment would take place.

The possibility of redeployment from villages has been virtually ignored. The media have tended to speak of redeployment from "urban centers," although Article 13 of the Oslo Accord calls for redeployment "outside populated areas."

"Populated areas, as called for in Oslo, refers to Arab villages as well," a senior official said. (Continued on Page 19)

IDF denies preparing to leave Jenin; locals not so sure

JON IMMANUEL

OVER the past two weeks, the army has dismantled roadblocks in Jenin, transferred long-term prisoners from the local jail, and evacuated a nearby collaborator's camp.

Local people believe the army is preparing to withdraw, but the IDF said that "nothing has changed, so there is nothing to comment on."

However, the military roadblock on the Nablus road at the southern entrance to Jenin and the army encampment next to it disappeared on January 3. The same day, troops also removed the roadblock at the entrance to Kabatiya. Both have been fixtures since 1988, when Kabatiya and Jenin became known as the most militant areas of the intifada.

Kabatiya was the first village to be a collaborator, an act considered so horrifying in 1988 that the IDF imposed a month-long curfew, which became a human rights cause celebre. Jenin was considered the most dangerous place to serve outside Gaza's refugee camps.

The only soldiers left in Kabatiya are an occasional mobile patrol and those in the civil administration building. That, too, is on the way out. Local observers noted that three of the six tents which housed soldiers there were removed last week.

The reduction in military presence could be attributed to the reduction of tension in the area due to the peace process, rather than any redeployment (Continued on Page 19)

Netanyahu predicts early elections

SARAH HONIG

THE Labor Party will probably advance the next elections, "because it is now batching up a candidate deal with Syria behind the nation's back," Likud chairman Benjamin Netanyahu told the party secretariat last night.

The Likud has already begun preparing for early elections, Netanyahu added.

The secretariat was convened to deliberate how the Likud will choose its next slate of Knesset candidates and precisely what form of primaries the party will adopt. This is the main bone of contention now between the party mainstream and the faction led by MK David Levy.

Netanyahu argued that the government will seek to yield the entire Golan to Syria and "use the artificial euphoria it will create around this to its political advantage, calling early elections before the effect wears off."

In the face of growing opposition to the primaries, Netanyahu offered a heated defense of the system and even appeared to make a concession to the Levy camp, when he stressed that "there ought to be a significant local component in any primary system."

Levy's chief demand is that a large portion of the Likud Knesset contingent be elected by the local branches, to make sure that as many of his supporters as possible get into the Knesset. Most agree that in a national primary, the Levy faction would do poorly.

The precise system the Likud will choose is to be determined in an upcoming session of the party central committee, Netanyahu said.

"Anyone who wants to do away with the primaries will have to convene the party convention for that purpose," he said. "It was the convention which decided in favor of the primaries and reversing this decision would be detrimental to the Likud."

Netanyahu was opposed by MK Ze'ev Begin, who regards the primaries as "a system which wars delicate political balances and basically hurts the political parties."

(Continued on Page 19)

Beilin: Pursue peace process as if Labor won't win next election

SARAH HONIG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin "might not run again in 1996, and Labor ought to pursue the peace process as if it has less than two years to carry out its aims," Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told the Labor Party's Kfar Hayarok circle yesterday.

Beilin admitted that, "The negotiations with Syria have borne no fruit so far, and the fact there has been no breakthrough is not our fault. However, we can use the fact that the polls are not encouraging from our point of view to speed up the peace process."

According to Beilin's thesis, the possibility that Rabin will not run again "must not be entirely discounted. Likewise, the polls may continue to auger ill for Labor."

"We must not lose sight of the fact that we might not have much time to further our goals and that another government might take over in November 1996," he continued. "We cannot operate smoothly under the assumption that we will be in power at least until the year 2000. We must realize this and the other side — the Syrians and Palestinians — must also face this reality."

Instead of laboring "under the assumption that we have many years at our disposal, we would do better to concentrate on how many of our plans we can implement before November 1996. Not to do so may cost us dearly," Beilin warned.

He suggested that "Labor seek to achieve as much peace as it can by 1996 and include as many components of a permanent solution as possible in the interim arrangements. Not much ought to be left open."

Beilin has in the past proposed that the interim phase of the agreement with the Palestinians be skipped over and that the sides begin the final-status talks, which are to include negotiations on Jerusalem and the permanent borders.

(Continued on Page 19)

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FOUNDING CONFERENCE
"Preserving the Jewish Character of the State of Israel"
Wednesday, January 18, 1995 - The Renaissance Hotel, Jerusalem
9:30 a.m. Opening Remarks:
Rabbi Sol Sharfman, President, RCA, Israel Region
Chairman: Rabbi Rafael Grossman, First Vice President, Rabbinical Council of America
The Jewish Character of the State of Israel - an Historic Perspective
Chief Rabbi Meir Yisrael Lau
Chief Rabbi Elyahu Bakshi-Doron, the Rishon Lezion
Rabbi Nachum Rabinowitz, Rosh Yeshivat Birkat Moshe
11:30 a.m. "Israel, a Jewish State and a Democracy"
Professor Elav Shochatman, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Medinat Yisrael, Changing Perceptions on the Part of Contemporary Israeli Society
Professor Elazar Don-Yehiye, Bar-Ilan University
Discussants: Mr. Meir Aran and Dr. Haim Hallel
1:30 p.m. Luncheon Session
Panel: The Preservation of the Jewish Character of the State of Israel; Implications for World Jewry
Chairman: M. Leon Masalia, Director General, Consistoire Juive, Paris
Rabbi Rafael Grossman, (USA) - Rabbi Avraham Goldman (France)
Chief Rabbi Mayer Jost (Holland)
Chief Rabbi Avraham Yitzhak Barfield (Mexico)
3:00 p.m. Summation: Rabbi Naftali Hollander, Director, RCA, Israel
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Ateret Cohanim renewing drive to build in Abu Dis

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein yesterday met with the director of the British Council in Israel, who told him the embargo refers only to the study of nuclear subjects and is not specifically directed at Israel, but at all countries which had not signed the NPT.

A survey conducted by the government just after the Six Day War confirms the early documents. The survey gives a detailed list of the names of the Jewish property owners, date of purchase, and location and size of the plot.

The construction of the road triggered an angry response from Ahmed Tibi, aide to PLO chief Yasser Arafat. "This is stealing Palestinian land under the half-closed eye of an Israeli government that allows the settlers to break the law and undermines the foundation of the peace process," Tibi told Israel Radio.

Matza said that Rabin and Shamir are turning the country into a "free touring zone for murderers," and that, rather than jail them, the government is hosting them and worrying about their welfare as if they were honored guests.

Arafat's aide, Nabil Abu Rdeineh, said the mines are hard to find, because Israel lacks accurate maps of where they were planted.

Meanwhile, the French consul in Jerusalem and another senior French Foreign Ministry official visited the Temple Mount yesterday accompanied by Palestinian Religious Affairs Minister Hassan Tabout and Wakf officials.

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License to kill

THE government's decision to award VIP status and free access to Israel to Jibril Rajoub, Mohammed Dahlan and Amin Hindi - the commanders of the PLO security services in Jericho and Gaza - is puzzling indeed. Obviously, the idea behind the move is to get these Palestinian equivalents of the Mossad and GSS chiefs to collaborate in combating Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists.

At first glimpse, this is not an altogether unreasonable expectation. The PLO and Hamas have reached an agreement on a modus vivendi, in which Hamas terrorists can carry on the "armed struggle" outside the self-rule areas. But the two organizations are engaged in a struggle for power in the Palestinian street, and the PLO is not above trying to undermine Hamas. It is not impossible that Rajoub, Dahlan and Hindi give the GSS helpful information about key Hamas organizers.

But the price of this information is the enhancement of the power and prestige of the PLO security agencies, which are no less dangerous than Hamas. That they, too, are committed to the continuation of the "armed struggle" was made clear on Wednesday by Nabil Shaath, one of the PLO's more moderate officials. The intifada, he said, will continue as long as "the occupation" does. And "intifada," as even the PLO now acknowledges, does not mean pebble-throwing by little children. To let the chiefs of PLO terrorism, whose record of murder is second to none, roam freely in Israel and the

administered territories, is to invite the preparation and launching of terrorist acts.

There are obviously still some Israelis who believe that these gentlemen have changed. But the conduct of the trio since they arrived in the self-rule areas should have alerted them of this notion. On Wednesday, Dahlan was involved in an incident at the Netzarim junction, where he blocked the passage of a school bus carrying Netzarim children. Not surprisingly, he denied the testimony of the soldiers and bus driver, claiming it was a slander perpetrated by enemies of the peace process.

Rajoub, too, has been involved in several violations of the Oslo-Cairo agreements. He has deployed his gunmen in the territories and Jerusalem, kidnapped men from Jerusalem, and ordered others beaten. In fact, until yesterday, he was still officially prohibited from entering Jerusalem. This did not prevent him from engaging in an altercation with an IDF soldier in the capital, an incident he brazenly denied ever happened until he realized a radio reporter had witnessed it.

Security agencies often take risks for short-term gains. The GSS is eager to eliminate Hamas terrorism in Judea and Samaria before the army is withdrawn from Arab population centers and intelligence sources dry up. But a government must think ahead. Freedom of movement in Israel and the territories for Hindi, Rajoub and Dahlan is a gamble the government cannot afford to take.

Shilansky's mission

FORMER Knesset Speaker MK Dov Shilansky (Likud) is not a young man. But he has undertaken a mission on behalf of law, justice, and decency which would try the fortitude and perseverance of much younger men. Yesterday he asked to be arrested, held in a police lock-up, and moved to prison for two days to examine detention procedures and conditions.

There is little doubt that Shilansky's findings will be nothing short of shocking. That conditions in detention cells are medieval, and that the arrest procedures are antiquated and unnecessarily humiliating is an open secret. But Shilansky's investigation covers only the tip of a monstrous iceberg. The painful fact is that, when it comes to police procedures and imprisonment, there is little similarity between the tenets of democratic law and the way they are applied in Israel.

The most common complaint against law enforcement agencies has to do with police brutality. In demonstrations and protests the police often use unwarranted and unjustified force, often beating unresisting men and women for no apparent reason. Since most demonstrations are against government policies, some observers believe the police have been politicized. But there seems to be little difference between the way they treat leftists and rightists. They are brutal to both camps.

The police seem unable to differentiate between dangerous, violent demonstrations organized by forces opposed to the country's existence and those that oppose its policies. There is no excuse, for example, for policemen who keep order at demonstrations not to wear their identity tags. Nor can physical assaults on women and elderly demonstrators be justified.

Even more disturbing is the unholy collaboration between police and courts on the granting of bail. The only two valid reasons for depriving suspects of release on bail are a reasonable suspicion they would escape from the court's

jurisdiction and a fear they would endanger others. Remanding suspects until trial - sometimes a matter of months - because of police concern that they might "undermine the investigation" offends justice and common sense.

That the police possess an exaggerated feeling of power and authority is probably a result of the country's security situation. The need to be always vigilant and able to confront terrorist threats is not conducive to strict observance of legal strictures. But the tendency of the police to ignore the law and arbitrarily assume authority to which they are not entitled is not only a danger to democracy; it can embarrass the country.

In several recent cases, visitors from East European and African countries were detained at Ben-Gurion Airport for days in intolerable conditions and expelled for no reason. Not surprisingly, their respective governments have lodged harsh protests. Airport security can hardly be faulted for being cautious: there is still a very real danger of terrorism, and several American Hamas agents have been recently apprehended.

But to treat as criminals a Nigerian volunteer invited by a kibbutz, a couple of tourists from Poland with valid visas, and a visiting teacher from Russia; to keep them isolated and in unacceptable conditions in an airport lock-up; and to deport them without a hearing only because the airport police don't like their looks, is unacceptable behavior in a civilized country.

If Shilansky's two-day stint in police domain enlightens the nation about these abuses, his mission will be more than justified. One must hope, though, that the media and the government will not treat his experience as a stunt to be given momentary publicity and forgotten. A thorough, comprehensive investigation of these conditions, perhaps initiated by the state comptroller, is in order. The issue is far too close to the very core of Israel's character to deserve anything less.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TRAFFIC DEATHS

Sir, - The havoc on the roads of Israel is something which will not go away just by wishing it away. The number of deaths caused by car accidents seems to be rising in spite of seat belts, better roads and more traffic lights.

What to do? We must put more police on the roads to catch speeders and they must be punished more severely to help them change their ways. I sincerely believe that most of the cars and trucks that veer into the wrong lane do so because the drivers have been driving so rapidly that they lost control of their vehicles.

We must use whatever new technology is available to catch drivers who refuse to drive by the rules. All this speeding saves each driver perhaps five minutes, but may cause him to lose his life or someone else's. If we cannot convince our drivers to drive carefully then we must force them with punishment to do so.

Each time an Israeli civilian or soldier is killed by a terrorist, the entire country is terribly upset, and rightfully so. But when five people are killed in one week in traffic accidents, nothing is said. They are just as dead, their families are just as

destroyed, and the country is that much poorer for having lost those five - so why is nothing said? Why are those tragedies also not shown on all the television screens?

We are not an infant country anymore and we must start acting and driving like responsible adults.

Let us all write to Minister of Transport Yisrael Kessar and demand that much more effort be put into preventing traffic accidents.

BEATRICE SAFRAN

Jerusalem.

"THE RIVER WILD"

Sir, - On the recommendation of a friend, I saw Meryl Streep's new film, *The River Wild*. Finally, a breath of fresh air: no sex, no nudity, no foul language, and minimal violence. This beautifully filmed, suspenseful drama of a young family healing itself during an adventure-packed vacation is indeed a rare find.

It may have been a "clunker" to Adina Hoffman, who obviously enjoyed denigrating both Streep and the plot (her review of January 2), but this is an excellent film that deserves our attention.

ELLEN L. JAFFE

Jerusalem.

HANDICAPPED DRIVER

Sir, - On Friday, January 6, I traveled with my wife in our private automobile to keep an appointment downtown. I attempted to park my car on Harav Kook near the corner of Jaffa Road in front of a taxi stand. A man claiming to be the owner of the stand came out and told me that I could not park there as he "owned" the space. I advised him that as a handicapped driver, I was permitted to park my car anywhere, including the space he claimed to "own" as long as the vehicle did not cause a public safety hazard.

As I maneuvered into the space, he blocked the space with his body and refused to move, thus causing a back-up of traffic on the narrow street. He aggressively informed me that he would set fire to my vehicle if I left it there and would have his drivers gang-rape my wife when we returned. Only the intervention of the owner of the adjoining parking lot, who graciously allowed me to park my car free of charge in his lot, prevented this disgusting display from becoming physically violent.

What recourse does an innocent driver such as me have against this kind of gangsterism and violence?

TSVI GOLDSTEIN

Jerusalem.

Jurassic Industrial Park



A slow march to peace

ABBA EBAN

WHAT is an Arab state? Is it a sovereign nation, capable of independent decision? Or is it one of a group of kindred national communities, committed to united decision in the name of solidarity?

The traditional Arab wisdom was eloquently expressed by a Palestinian professor at Harvard. In 1978 Walid Khalidi wrote in *Foreign Affairs*:

"The Arab states system is first and foremost a 'pan' system. It postulates the existence of a single Arab system behind the facade of a multiplicity of sovereign states. From this perspective, the individual Arab states are deviant and transient entities: their frontiers illusory and permeable, their rulers interim caretakers or obstacles to be removed. Their mandate is from the entire Arab nation. Before such super-legitimacy, the legitimacy of the individual states shrinks into irrelevance."

A few months after the publication of Walid Khalidi's article, Egypt concluded a peace treaty with Israel. This was a heavy defeat for Pan-Arabism. Anwar Sadat had sought no "mandate from the entire Arab nation." He assumed that "the legitimacy of the individual states" had not "shrunk into irrelevance." He was asserting a particularism which has always been more emphatic in Egypt than in other Arab states, but which is now spreading to other Arab countries as a result of the PLO-Israeli accord.

It would not be an oversimplification to say that the Arab states unite with each other for rhetoric but detach themselves from each

other for decisions. Their spheres of influence and preoccupation diverge.

Egypt's face is toward Africa and the Nile Valley. Iraq is preoccupied by Iran and the Gulf. Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia have Mediterranean thoughts which still focus largely on relations with France and the European Union.

Libya makes no pretense of solidarity with other Arab states.

seats in the UN, and reacts with distaste to the idea of becoming an anonymous member of an Arab league.

THE MIDDLE East peace process became possible only when the idea of separate sovereignties began to dominate the Arab world. It was obvious that if Arab states were committed to unanimous decision, they would be at the mercy of the most obstinate

Pan-Arabism is weakening, but the road to a New Middle East is rocky

Saudi Arabia does not seek "an Arab mandate" for its policies on oil prices. The Gulf states are not greatly influenced by Syria, or by the Palestinian question.

Thus, each Arab state holds a part of its consciousness in common with the others - and a large part particular to itself. Even the assumption that the Palestinian issue is the cement that holds the Arab world together has become dubious. It has been shattered by the PLO-Israeli agreement, which indicates that the Palestinians themselves have lost their faith in Arab solidarity.

It is easy to assert that the boundaries of Arab states were determined "artificially" to serve the interests of Britain and France. But a separate sovereignty quickly develops its own dynamic, cultivates a devotion to its own flag, enjoys its own premier-ships, ministries, embassies and

issues and the most radical Arab government.

The recent meeting of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia is a reaction to an Israeli success and a resultant Syrian panic.

Israel's flag now flies, in varying degrees of diplomatic formality, in Egypt, Jordan, Gaza and Jericho, Morocco and Tunisia. Syria presents itself in Washington with meticulous regularity for direct negotiation with Israel.

The multilateral sector of the peace process has brought Israelis around the same table as Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and other members of the Arab League. Israel also celebrates reinforced relations with Turkey and new links with most of the Moslem republics of the former Soviet Union. The secondary boycott imposed by the Arab states appears to have collapsed. If our media and public opin-

ion were semi-rational, the headlines last week would have been about the Saudi king supporting the peace process, and Yasser Arafat understanding that Palestinian freedom is contingent on Israeli security.

The Alexandria meeting may slow down the rush by Arab states for relations with Israel. But such inhibitions are likely to be short-lived.

Egypt is not the champion of the Pan-Arab myth which it had decisively defied in Sadat's initiative. President Assad, far from leading the Arab world toward realism, resembles a man who rushes to a railway station every morning for the express purpose of missing the train.

All major indications support the prediction that there will be a continued weakening of federal tendencies in Arab nationalism and a reinforcement of particularist decision-making.

Yet we Israelis would do well to understand that the road toward that vision is likely to be strewn with obstacles, that Israeli rhetoric about the new Middle East should be more low-key and less rhapsodical. It takes time for deep-rooted hostility to be transcended by regional interests, and the agreements with the Palestinians and Jordanians will have to be economically more beneficial than they have been if the peace process is to flourish.

But there is much more life in the Oslo agreement than Likud spokesmen and our excitable media would have us believe.

The writer is a former foreign minister.

After the Abu Mazen bombshell

YOSEF GOELL

SHOULD an independent country tolerate the intervention of a foreign entity - especially a hostile one - in its domestic political processes?

This is the critical question highlighted by the political scandal that has broken out over the publication of excerpts from the memoirs of PLO leader Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen).

Abbas was Yasser Arafat's top representative at the secret talks with Israeli officials which led to the breakthrough Oslo Agreement in September 1993.

In his account of the steps which led up to that breakthrough, he relates that Labor Party figures met many times with PLO representatives in the territories to discuss the possibility of the PLO's influencing Israeli Arab voters to help Labor's prospects of forming the next government. He even claims Yitzhak Rabin participated in one of these meetings.

This version has been vehemently, but unpersuasively denied by the Labor Party. The Likud has taken advantage of Labor's obvious discomfort and demanded that the Knesset establish a commission of inquiry to investigate the matter.

The proposal will come to a vote next week, and it is quite likely the coalition will succeed in mobilizing its narrow majority to defeat it.

When one reads the press reports from the spring of 1992, it is clear that the PLO and Arafat were trying to persuade Israeli Arab political leaders to overcome their differences and set up a single Arab list for the Knesset elections.

But Arafat failed. Almost five percent fewer Arabs voted; the proportion of Arabs voting for Zionist parties, especially Labor and Meretz, topped 50 percent for the first time in two decades;

and tens of thousands of Arab votes were wasted on splinter parties which did not pass the minimal threshold.

Arafat failed; but did he try at the behest of Labor? It's not hard to believe that Peace Now, Meretz, and Labor doves could have made such a request; it's some-

Osama Baz and Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny were deeply involved in trying to persuade Israeli Arab political leaders to unify into one list.

That this was common knowledge at the time makes it no less intolerable. What is not remembered is that all this occurred un-

A foreign entity influencing internal Israel affairs? The danger is still there

what harder to believe it of Rabin, given what we know of his pre-Oslo attitude toward the PLO. Labor, however, deserves every bit of the damage it has suffered in the court of public opinion.

THE PUBLIC'S attention, however, has been diverted from the evidence of crude PLO and Egyptian interference in Israel's internal political processes. One didn't need Abbas's revelations to know that the three Arab parties were falling over their own feet in their rush to Tunis to obtain Arafat's blessing.

Nor was it a secret that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's adviser on Israeli affairs Dr.

der a Likud government, which did little or nothing to stop such treasonous behavior by Israeli Arabs and such scandalous meddling by Egyptian diplomats. Likud election strategists were not at all dismayed by the possibility that a united Arab list would siphon off Arab votes from Labor and Meretz.

Labor's collusion and the Likud's turning a blind eye have established a very dangerous precedent.

Dr. Ahmed Tibi is now openly serving as Arafat's adviser on Israeli politics and simultaneously working to set up and head a unified Arab list in the next elections.

Tibi is not serving as a neutral

go-between; he clearly represents Arafat and the PLO, and identifies with their interests, which are often opposed to those of Israel.

Similarly, MKs Abdel Wahab Darawshe and Taleb a-Sanaa, and Islamic Movement leader Sheikh Abdallah Darwish have acted as mediators between Arafat and Hamas.

The healthy policy enunciated by Rabin, which calls for a maximum of separation between Israel and the Palestinians, requires the drawing of very clear red lines - especially for Israeli Arab politicians - between identification with Israeli interests and those of the Palestinians.

Whatever red lines there were have been obscured. They must be redrawn as clearly as possible as we approach the next elections.

These elections will coincide with the exacerbation of tensions between Israel and the PLO, as we enter negotiations on the incendiary issues of Jerusalem and the final disposition of the territories.

It is unthinkable that Israeli Arab politicians who openly identify with the PLO stand on these issues should be permitted to participate in determining Israeli policies and tactics.

The writer comments on public affairs.

POSTSCRIPTS

WHEN VICTORIA Ingram and Randall Curlee first met, they felt they were compatible with each other. The couple from Mission Viejo, California, had no idea how compatible they were.

As soon as they were married, they left for their honeymoon in a hospital, where a doctor transplanted one of Ingram's kidneys into Curlee.

Curlee, 46, who knew he need-

ed a transplant, took Ingram to see his doctor so she would understand how his diabetes would affect their future.

The doctor warned that only 4,000 kidneys become available each year for the 36,000 people awaiting a transplant.

"Victoria said, 'Why don't you test me?'" Curlee said. "Both the doctor and I looked at each other, and we thought it was way off the wall."

They got tested and forgot about it. Then the phone rang.

"The doctor explained to us that our immune systems are identical, and that it was like winning the lottery," Curlee said. "I feel gifted," said the 45-year-old Ingram. "It's something I can give him that we'll both enjoy."

Jan 13 1995

The Golan out of focus

YISRAEL HAREL

THE Foreign Ministry has been ordered not to include the Golan Heights in ministry-sponsored tours for official guests.

When Deputy Minister Yossi Beilin, who gave the order, was asked why - since visitors to the Golan leave with a better understanding of Israel's security needs - he replied: "As far as I'm concerned, they can visit the Golan from the Syrian side."

Beilin apparently fears that statesmen, senior media personnel, and foreign military officers (the typical official foreign guests), impressed by the strategic value of the Heights, might wonder why the government is ready to give them up.

They might also question why it is willing to dismantle flourishing settlements, built with blood and sweat, turning their inhabitants into refugees.

Simple business logic, which every market vendor understands, dictates that even if you want to get rid of something, you must present it as having great value.

That same logic requires that if you want to quit the Golan, you should raise its price in the political marketplace.

Take national leaders visiting Israel to see it, persuade them how important it is and what a sacrifice you would be making to give it up.

But Israel's Foreign Ministry works in a diametrically opposite manner, and not just where the Golan is concerned. It acts almost as though it were representing someone else's interests.

Why are AIPAC's leaders going along with a move that could negate their life's work?

Most of the nation, as the surveys prove, opposes withdrawing from the Golan.

So Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres, and Beilin have used the stationing of American troops on the Heights as a ploy to reverse public opinion.

Such troops - 1,000 of them, Rabin says, armed only with rifles - will calm public fears, and a majority will vote for withdrawal when the referendum on the Golan's future is held.

US President Bill Clinton certainly thought he was contributing to peace when he accepted Rabin's request that American troops be stationed on the Golan. And our Foreign Ministry - whose idea it appears to have been in the first place - hurried to mobilize supporters among American legislators, most of whom, especially in the present Congress, oppose sending troops overseas.

Had the ministry heads, so keen on bringing about a quick withdrawal, made a minimal check of previous instances where foreign troops have been deployed on our northern border,

der, they might have had second thoughts. For experience indicates that many countries previously friendly to Israel cooled considerably after their troops served in UNIFIL.

Scandinavia is an example. According to press reports quoting the Scandinavian media, Norway was very friendly to Israel until its troops came to serve in UNIFIL. Then they began to identify with the terrorists from Lebanon, with their officers accusing Israel of responsibility for almost every incident there.

When Norwegian soldiers (and others) got killed by terrorist fire, and it was crystal-clear they hadn't been shot by the IDF, the UN officers nevertheless preferred to blame Israeli provocation.

The Scandinavian media, and not just in Norway, gave great play to these stories. Even in countries like Holland and Denmark, which are sworn friends of Israel, there was a significant setback in public sympathy for our cause.

A similar scenario can no doubt be expected if American forces are sent to the Golan.

IT IS painful that friendly Scandinavian countries have changed their attitude toward us, but we can live with it. However, American public opinion turning against Israel would be a strategic disaster, since US support is so central to our security.

Should US public opinion turn against us, it will rapidly be felt not just in economic assistance - which, in principle, can be dispensed with - but mainly in defense aid. The US could stop selling us essential weapons systems and withdraw the diplomatic support we now enjoy.

Our Foreign Ministry is committed to all sorts of ideas, more the product of fantasy than rational thought.

But why does this lead an organization like AIPAC, whose research department is supposed to provide its leaders with hard data, to support such moves?

What happened to those US Jewish leaders who, for many years, nurtured close Israel-US relations, but are now going along with a destructive move, one that could shatter their life's work? Who struck them blind? Are Yossi Beilin and Shimon Peres that powerful?

There is another important aspect. AIPAC has never exerted pressure on Washington for a cause that lacked consensus in Israel.

On the Golan, as its leaders well know, the consensus is almost the reverse: All recent surveys show that more than 60 percent of Israelis oppose total withdrawal.

So whose interest is being served - the interest of the majority of the Jewish people, or that of its leftist minority?

The writer is chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, and editor of Nekuda.



A disease called murder

ESTHER HERTZOG

THE year 1995 has barely begun, and another woman has been murdered.

Jacqueline Assaf's husband Gabi, who had already spent two years in jail for stabbing her, shot the Kiryat-Shmona mother of two with a revolver.

Following the murder, Ronit Lev-Ari, Na'amat's legal adviser, issued this call to women: "Don't be right - be smart." What she meant was that battered women should go, with or without their children, into shelters. In other words, they should spend their lives locked up, while the men who do the battering continue to walk the streets freely.

"It can't be helped," said Lev-Ari.

Ora Namir, minister of labor and social affairs, went a step further, calling for economic sanctions against battered women who return to their husbands. "We need to tell them: If you stay with this man, you make it hard for us to help you," Namir added that she herself had threatened to fire a woman in her office if she went back to her battering husband.

These examples reflect the cynical and destructive approach of women in politics, of the leadership of the largest women's organizations (mainly Na'amat and Wizo) and of the social welfare services.

We all know the ritual. Each time a battered woman gets murdered, these organizations' leaders appear all over the place in public, claiming their organizations have the solution for women who are victims of male violence.

Following the sentencing last October of Carmela Buchbut to seven years in prison for killing her abusive husband, both Ofra Friedman, secretary-general of Na'amat, and Irit Rosenbloom, Wizo's legal adviser, hinted that Buchbut's mistake had been not turning to their organizations for

help. The "solution" that the heads of these organizations propose is "treatment" for men who batter their wives. The implication: wife murder isn't really murder.

A "typical" murder, it goes without saying, merits a full police investigation. But the murder of a wife (or partner) - or so the women's organizations and the social welfare system would make it appear - calls for an educational approach.

These men fall into "a different category." They need to undergo "reeducation," because they themselves were battered, and a host of other reasons.

One can't help wondering whether the eagerness of the women's organizations to reeducate these men stems from any

when the prisons are already overcrowded?

And if the judges don't punish men's violence against women as severely as other acts of violence, why should the police make an effort to investigate?

This is how society comes to give its backing to men who use violence to dominate their wives and children. And the women and children trapped within the "sacred" institution of the family are helpless, effectively abandoned by those who should be helping them.

There is only one way to combat family violence, and that is the same way that society combats all types of violence: by punishing any individual who inflicts harm on another as severely as the injury demands.

The people and organizations that represent women must put wife-battering back within the universal definition of violence. They must forget about reeducation and fight to fill our prisons with murderers who have lost all traces of humanity.

This week's debate in the Ministerial Committee on Legislation about authorizing harsher punishment for men who batter their wives raised hope of a change in approach. There were open admissions of failure and negligence on the part of the police and the courts.

But Namir's conclusion dashed those hopes. The "locked treatment facilities" she called for will never be built. Nor do we need them, since we already have prisons.

If the authorities don't start treating wife-batters as plain criminals, more of their victims will be forced to take the law into their own hands, the way Carmela Buchbut did. The writing is on the wall.

The writer lectures on sociology and anthropology at Beit Berl College in Kfar Sava.

Women's organizations are sending the wrong message about men who batter their wives

thing more than a desire to fill the educational workshops.

THESE organizations are granting legitimacy to leniency in murders where the victims are women. They are helping to cover up the police's failure in dealing with men who are violent at home, and helping to perpetuate the often ridiculous sentences imposed by the court.

If a judge has the option of sentencing an offender to "treatment" in a workshop setting - an option that has the blessing of the women's organizations - why should he send these men to jail,

Some reservists are more equal than others

LAWRENCE RIFKIN

OFFER Har-Gil lobbies diligently on behalf of a growing group of combat reservists who would like to see a more egalitarian distribution of reserve duty. This growing group includes me.

Recently we joined Har-Gil at the Knesset, where he told a panel of MKs that he feels like a sucker. Why? Because no one in his family or among his friends does reserve duty.

It is difficult to believe Har-Gil's claim until one looks at data gathered by MK Ra'anan Cohen in conjunction with two former heads of the IDF's Manpower Division.

While combat troops in 1992 served four times as much reserve duty as men assigned to noncombat units, forecasts show they'll serve 10 times as much in 1996. In addition, 46 percent of the men on IDF reserve rolls are never mobilized at all.

The result is that 30 percent of Israel's reservists carry 80 percent of the load, with many being called away from home for 32-day stretches of active duty in places like Lebanon and Hebron in addition to another two weeks of training. And this happens every year.

I was surprised to hear Har-Gil say he feels like a sucker. We do army service because we love our country and we're motivated to serve it, not because of what others do or don't do. If we're suckers, it's in the eyes of absentee reservists.

But why should I serve someone else's reserve duty? Do I pay other people's taxes?

The problem is, if these men indeed comprise 46 percent of Israel's reserve-age males, it means there is a large segment of the population (if you include their families) from which the rest of us cannot expect any sympathy.

And this is what worries me, for I'm not at all sure how much support we can count on from those who don't consider us suckers.

As a young tank company commander following the Yom Kippur War, Tsomet MK Moshe Peled volunteered to serve an extra three months of reserve duty on the Suez Canal.

Similarly, as a reserve brigade commander in the mid-1980s, he sought to express his identification with IDF troops in Lebanon by volunteering to spend three weeks there as a rank-and-file soldier.

These actions are truly commendable. Just as commendable is his understanding that the burden of reserve duty is indeed heaped on a relatively small number of men.

But Peled also believes that good Zionists would not complain. And he had to tell me this

over the phone, because the well-meaning but bull-headed MK didn't have time to get in another word at the Knesset after finishing his lecture to Har-Gil and the rest of us about how we're "demoralizing" everyone else in the IDF.

MANY OF us are raising young families, with children who have nightmares and develop psychosomatic symptoms when, for weeks on end, daddy is nowhere to be seen, and the evening news broadcasts compete with gory footage of men in uniform who've been blown to bits.

Many of us have careers and businesses which require our presence if we are to advance and prosper. (It may be illegal to fire a man for doing reserve duty, but it is clear that managers often prefer employees who won't be going off to play soldier for weeks at a time.)

What's more, keen-eyed competitors often exploit the fact that a business has been brought to a halt by reserve duty. In addition, many of us are students who always seem to be mobilized when it's time for exams.

We answer our call-up notices and serve for weeks at a time far

When you complain, they call you crybabies. Then lazy bums. Finally, traitors

from home in some of the most awful holes imaginable. We do this year in, year out - and a Knesset member talks of Zionism and how we're demoralizing everyone else.

In this country it starts with "cry-babies." Then "lazy bums." And finally "traitors."

The same day at the Knesset, the IDF's present head of manpower reportedly told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that combat reservists over 40 would serve for no more than 26 days starting next year, and that 42-year-olds would be released outright starting in 1996.

I'll be 41 next month, and I should be thrilled. But I'll believe it when I see it.

And I have a son who one day will go into the army. While I'll be finished, even with peace, he'll probably have more than two decades to serve as a reservist.

Since parents usually pass their values on to their children, I fear my son may end up serving on behalf of the sons of today's absentee reservists. He deserves better.

The writer is a Jerusalem-based freelancer.

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
The Rabb Center for Holocaust and Redemption Studies
The Raoul Wallenberg Association, Beer-Sheva

An evening in tribute to Raoul Wallenberg

Righteous among the Nations

to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his arrest on Tuesday, January 17, 1995, at 6:00 p.m. in the Joya Claire Sonnenfeldt Auditorium, BGU Campus, Beer Sheva

Justice Moshe Bejski will deliver a lecture on "Raoul Wallenberg - First among the Righteous"

Remarks:

Prof. Nachum Finger, Rector
Dr. Renée Poznanski, Director of the Rabb Center
Prof. Shimon Redlich, Department of History

Carl-Magnus Hyltenius, Ambassador of Sweden
Dr. Norman Spector, Ambassador of Canada
James A. Larocco, Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy
Klara Akots, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Hungary

Dr. Jean Kloos-Fishman,
the Raoul Wallenberg Association
Zvi Erez, Saved by Wallenberg

An exhibit

"A Tribute to Raoul Wallenberg" will be on display in the lobby of the Auditorium.

We wish to express our gratitude to "Amcha"

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"Israel On the Map" Real Estate and Investment Supplements

Just before Pessah, The Jerusalem Post will publish special supplements, devoted to real estate and investments, in Israel. The supplements will be published in the International Editions of March 20 and 27, and the daily paper of the festival eve, April 14.

For more information and to advertise in these supplement, please contact
Udi Bash, 03-6390333, Fax 03-6390277.

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WORLD BRIEFS

Argentina police detain new suspect
BUENOS AIRES (AP) — An Argentine man was detained Wednesday on charges he helped to sell a stolen van used in the bombing of a Jewish center that killed 99 people and injured more than 200.

An appeals court on December 28 upheld the indictment of two other Argentines, Carlos Tellidin and Ariel Nitzcaner, on similar charges. Perez was living with Tellidin at the time of the bombing and took part in the sale, officials said.

Although suspected of complicity, none of the three detainees have been implicated directly with the July 18 bombing.

Britain scales down troops in Belfast
BELFAST (Reuters) — Britain announced yesterday a partial withdrawal of its troops from the streets of Belfast for the first time in 25 bloody years because of cease-fires by the Irish Republican Army and its Loyalist foes.

Ireland Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) police chief Sir Hugh Annesley said troops which have protected police for a quarter of a century would stop patrols in daylight hours beginning Sunday.

Algeria renounces nuclear arms, joins NPT
LONDON (Reuters) — Algeria, which has always denied its nuclear program has military uses, formally renounced nuclear arms yesterday by joining the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which is designed to stop the spread of such weapons.

In deep sorrow we mourn the loss of our beloved
HANNAH WARTSKI
at the age of 101

Daughter: Sheila Barak

Son: Samuel and Naomi Warski

Grandchildren and great-grandchildren

The funeral will take place at 10 a.m. today,
Friday, January 13, 1995 at Sanhedria Funeral Home in Jerusalem.
Shiva at 4 Avizohar St., Jerusalem.

On the first anniversary of the death of
BARNEY ROSENBERG ז"ל

we will meet at the Kfar Nachman cemetery at 3:30 p.m.,
on Wednesday, January 18, for a memorial service.

The Family

In deep sorrow we announce the death of
BERYL RACHEL LAVIE
of Petah Tikva

The funeral took place yesterday January 12, 1995 (Shvat 11)

Husband: Joseph Lavie

Son: Shimon and Idit Lavie and family

Daughter: Tamar and Mordechai Bohrer and family

Sister: Marcia Kalman and family

Brother: Rabbi Moshe and Cynthia Rose and family

Shiva 36 Rehov Trumpeldor, Petah Tikva

30/2 Rehov Machal, Ma'alot Dafna, Jerusalem

ROBIN REUVEN MORGAN

a man of many gifts,
missed and mourned by his many friends
at Kol Yisrael, English Departments.

Funeral: German Colony Cemetery,
41 Emek Refaim, 11 a.m. today.

A memorial service for our beloved
JOSEPH SORIANO ז"ל

will take place on Sunday, January 15, 1995,
at 3:00 p.m., at the Givat Shaul Cemetery.

The Family and Friends

In memory of
Dr. JOSEPH SORIANO
who was the medical officer of health of Jerusalem,
1951 - 1971

on the first anniversary of his death.

A Friend

The unveiling of the gravestone of the late
HOWARD L. AGRONIN ז"ל
will take place at the Netanya Cemetery, Shikun Vatikim,
on Monday, January 16, at 3 p.m.

The Family

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of
ITKE (Ida) KANTOR

Australia - New Zealand - Ramat Gan

Mourner:

Nina Kantor

Nava and Moshe Horovitz

and grandchildren

Shiva at the Horovitz home, 62 Harechasim St., Ramat Gan.



**SOUTH AFRICAN
EMBASSY**

Message to the Public

A condolence book for the late
JOE SLOVO
South African Minister of Housing,
has been opened at the
South African Embassy for signatures,
weekdays 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Top Tower, 16th floor.
50 Dizengoff St., Tel Aviv
Tel. 03-5252566

Russia renews attacks on Grozny

BARRY RENFREW
GROZNY

RUSSIAN forces began a massive new attack yesterday to take the capital of Chechnya, pounding the city with waves of artillery and rockets as infantry and tanks smashed into rebel positions.

In the heaviest assault yet on the secessionist capital, huge Russian forces closed in relentlessly on the battered presidential palace and city center. Chechen fighters were being driven back house by house and their resistance in the city appeared close to collapse.

Huge plumes of black smoke spiraled hundreds of meters into the sky over the city as shells slammed into buildings. Heavy machine-gun and small arms fire echoed across the city center as Russian troops attacked from three directions.

Chechen fighters, who had boasted in recent days of defeating the Russian army, were visibly worried and exhausted. Large units had dwindled to a few men and some groups were seen moving out of the city.

Among the latest refugees were members of President Dzhokhar Dudayev's government, who continued to arrive in neighboring Ingushetia, from where they planned to fly abroad, the Russian government press service said.

Chechen officers claimed their forces still held the palace, but



A woman Chechen fighter shows a grenade in Grozny yesterday that she said she would use to kill herself if taken by Russian troops. (AP)

admitted the fight was not going well. Associated Press correspondents got to within some 500 meters of the palace, but could not see who held the devastated building because of furious shelling.

"There are still some people left in the palace," said one Chechen fighter, clutching a double-barreled shotgun and looking very tired and frightened.

Rebel fighters were short of ammunition. Several old men in their 60s armed with pistols and

daggers were helping man positions.

Hundreds of Russian tanks, armored personnel carriers and troop trucks were moving on several roads toward Grozny. In villages along the route, Chechens were desperately trying to organize defense units, but they had only rifles and no heavy weapons.

Some Russian soldiers, who would not give their names, said this time they were going to take the Chechen capital.

Britain to pursue Nazi criminals; names of 5 more submitted

LONDON (AP) — The government refused yesterday to call off investigations into alleged Nazi war criminals living in Britain, despite plans to cut off researchers' funding in March.

Home Office Minister of State David Maclean told the House of Commons it would be wrong to abandon the inquiries by Scotland Yard's War Crimes Unit, which are in their final stages.

The unit is funded until the end of March, and "it is anticipated the police investigation will be completed by this date," he said.

Maclean said 21 cases were still being investigated by police, and nine by the Crown Prosecution Service, which was deciding whether to prosecute.

Police have investigated 369 cases overall, and prosecutors have decided not to pursue 236, he said. Another 112 suspects have died.

No one has yet come to trial in Britain. The British Home Office announced last week that on March 31, it will end funding of a \$7.8 million investigation into hundreds of alleged Nazi war criminals living here.

Scotland Yard said the future of the unit depends on whether any of the cases actually go to trial.

It was the latest blow for the Nazi-hunting Simon Wiesenthal Center, already dismayed by the closure in 1992 of a special investigating unit in Australia.

Yesterday, the center submitted the names of five more suspected Nazi war criminals to the British ambassador to Israel, Andrew Burns.

Efraim Zuroff, director of the center's Israel office, also urged Britain to continue

funding the war crimes unit for the next year.

"In view of the greater access now available to archives in the areas of the former Soviet Union in which the crimes of the Holocaust took place, there is every likelihood that the Wiesenthal Center will be able to uncover numerous additional Nazi war crimes suspects living in Great Britain during the coming months and it is therefore particularly important that the unit which has acquired considerable expertise over the past years remain in existence," Zuroff said.

Prosecution details 59 alleged acts of O.J. violence

SHIRLEY E. PERLMAN and JOSEPH DEMMA
LOS ANGELES

Details of case show long trail of abuse against Nicole

IN a devastating attack on O.J. Simpson, the prosecution has introduced 59 incidents of alleged domestic violence that portray the former football player as a batterer who physically abused his ex-wife for a 17-year period that culminated with her death in June.

The explosive allegations, which were culled from his ex-wife's diary and eyewitness testimony of friends and family members, included a number of alleged beatings, a threat by Simpson to cut off the heads of any of his ex-wife's boyfriends he caught driving his cars, allegations that Simpson threatened and stalked Nicole Brown Simpson, made incriminating remarks at her funeral, and was in possession of keys to her house that were reported stolen two weeks before her death.

The allegations are contained in an 85-page response to a defense motion seeking to bar evidence of the alleged domestic violence at trial.

In another bombshell revelation, which appeared to come as a surprise to the defense team, Deputy District Attorney Lydia Bodin said that prosecutors learned Wednesday that Nicole Simpson contacted a shelter for battered women on June 7, 1994 — five days before she was murdered — saying that she was being stalked by Simpson.

"She called because she was afraid, and she had reason to be afraid," Bodin said.

At the funeral, according to the court papers, friends watched as Simpson leaned over his ex-wife's casket and said, "I'm sorry... I'm sorry. I loved you too much."

Bodin said that they found letters of apology from Simpson to his ex-wife last month when they

broke into a safe deposit box the dead woman maintained. In the box, she said, investigators found that Nicole Simpson "literally created an accounting, an audit trail of acts of violence because she wanted people to know what was going on in her life."

Prosecutors allege that Simpson repeatedly threatened to harm his wife and was unable to accept separation from her.

The papers cite an alleged threat made in a May 1991 conversation with actor Eddie Reynolds on the set of *Naked Gun 2½½* when Simpson allegedly said that "if he ever caught any of his wife's boyfriends driving any of his cars, he would 'cut their heads off.'"

The incidents of abuse are the subject of a high-stakes pretrial hearing before the legal experts say could seal the outcome of the trial.

California law gives the judge broad discretion to allow prior acts of abuse into evidence to show such things as motive or identity or pattern of behavior.

While conceding that Simpson "slapped and punched" Nicole Simpson in a 1989 incident that resulted in a conviction, defense lawyers argued that the incidents are overblown and not relevant to the charges of homicide and would serve only to prejudice the jury.

After court, defense attorneys Johnnie Cochran and Robert Shapiro met with the press to complain about the prosecution, charging that the day's events were an orchestrated attempt at "character assassination."

Cochran also sought to downplay Nicole Simpson's call to a battered women's shelter. "A call was made, it's never been authenticated," he said.

Newsday

FOLLOWING are some of the allegations of verbal and physical abuse, harassment and stalking by O.J. Simpson against his murdered ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, contained in an 85-page document the prosecution filed with the court:

According to a journal Nicole Simpson prepared for her divorce lawyer, the abuse started shortly after she and O.J. Simpson began seeing each other in 1977. "Early in the first year, 1977, in San Francisco," she wrote, "I found an earring in my apartment bed on Bedford. I accused O.J. of sleeping with someone named Teri. He threw a fit, chased me, grabbed me threw me into walls. Threw all my clothes out of the window into the street three floors down. Bruised me. Al Cowlings (Simpson's close friend) calmed him down."

While on a visit to New York [date unclear], according to the journal, Simpson began beating her on the street as they left an anniversary party and continued the battering after they arrived at their hotel. She wrote that he "continued to beat me for hours as I kept crawling for the door. ... [He] called my mother a whore and pretended to call her and tell her that. ... [He] hit me while he [had sex with] me."

She described an incident in San Jose, Calif., after a track meet where he "backhanded" her across the head and forced her to get out of the car. He then took off, stranding her late at night on the side of the road.

On another occasion, she wrote, he beat her at their Brentwood home, locked her in the wine closet, watched television, then beat her some more.

Denise Brown, Nicole's sister, has told prosecutors that Simpson became enraged when she told him he took Nicole for granted. Brown said he grabbed Nicole's clothes out of the closets, broke pictures of her family and then threw Nicole, Brown and a friend out of the house.

In 1986, he allegedly broke the windshield of her Mercedes with a baseball bat. She wrote in her journal that Simpson "smashed my car with a baseball bat after visiting" a friend. "He greeted me at the gate. I was too afraid to get out of the car. He did it because I was late, about 7-8 p.m."

Both Los Angeles police and a private security service agent responded to her call for help. Detective Mark Fuhrman, an investigator on the murder case who has been accused by the defense of being a racist capable of planting evidence, was a patrolman at the time. In a memorandum he wrote about the incident, he said that he noticed the windshield broken and dents in the car. When he asked who broke the windshield, he quoted Simpson as saying, "I broke the windshield... It's mine... there's no trouble here." Fuhrman's memo says that Nicole refused to fill out a report.

Also in 1986, after having drinks and listening to music with friends, Simpson "beat me up so bad at home — tore my blue sweater and blue slacks completely off me," she wrote in her journal. She received a bruise on her head and Simpson drove her to the hospital. She said she told Dr. Martin Alpert that she had fallen off a bicycle. Alpert told prosecutors that he did not believe her, that the injury was not consistent with a fall from a bike.

In January 1988, Nicole Simpson and her daugh-

ter, Sydney, returned from a Disney show, according to the journal. Simpson and his friend Al Cowlings were allegedly drunk. She was two months pregnant and he yelled at her, "You're a fat pig... You're disgusting... I want you out of my... house." Nicole went upstairs, but according to her journal she could hear her husband tell Cowlings, "My wife's a fat-ass... a liar... I stopped... her and now I... [vulgarity indicating masturbation]." He locked her out of their bedroom and when she tried to get in, he yelled, "Get out of my... house you fat-ass liar. I want you to have an abortion with the baby." She pleaded, "Do I have to go tonight? Sydney's [their daughter] sleeping. It's late." His response: "Let me tell you how serious I am. I have a gun in my hand right now. Get the... out of here." She then took her daughter and a few items and fled.

Also in 1988, she wrote in her journal, Simpson beat her after a gay man kissed their son, Justin: "O.J. threw me against the walls in our hotel and on the floor. Put bruises on my arms and back. The window scared me. Thought he'd throw me out."

The 1989 incident in which Simpson beat her and pleaded no contest is also described in detail. She told the officer who responded that police had been to the home eight times previously and nothing happened. The officer quoted O.J. Simpson as saying, "The police have been out here eight times before and now you're going to arrest me for this? This is a family matter. Why do you want to make a big deal out of it — we can handle it."

In a footnote to the description of the incident, the prosecution's papers note that members of the Los Angeles Police Department frequented the Simpson home, using the pool and tennis courts; that Simpson was the guest celebrity at their Christmas parties and that he autographed a number of footballs for them.

"In turn," the footnote states, "the officers responded to Rockingham in response to Nicole's calls for help 7-8 times prior to the 1989 incident. Each time the defendant was not arrested and no report was taken."

While Simpson has maintained that he was the victim in that assault or that it was a "mutual wrestling," the prosecution presented excerpts of letters he sent to Nicole Simpson. Peppered with misspellings, including that of his son's name, the letters, the prosecution maintains, clearly admit Simpson's guilt. He also admits to drinking too much and promises to quit and to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

One letter states: "I've taken full responsibility for this. It happens and I'm doing everything possible to assure it doesn't happen again. ... I love you and losing you is the only thing that madder to me. ... Know manner what I love you."

In another letter, he says, "I know you've gone thru alot over the years but, thanks to you I believe we're on the verge of having one perfect marriage. ... I only hope I didn't screw it up with this crazy drunken incident."

The papers also reveal that through his attorney, Skip Taft, Simpson sent Nicole a letter February 3, 1989, canceling their prenuptial agreement if he should ever physically abuse her again.

Newsday

NEWS IN FOCUS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1995

Treasury is banking on peace process

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat tells Jose Rosenfeld why the health tax will not lose Labor any votes

ON the eve of launching the Treasury's latest economic package, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat revealed his side of the story about taxes, the economy and Prime Minister Rabin's stock market tax forays.

TAXES
At the end of last year we ended with a deficit that was smaller by a third than budgeted. Wouldn't it have been better to have cut taxes more last year so that the tax burden would not increase by 2% and instead end the year with the budgeted deficit of 3% of Gross Domestic Product?

I cannot clearly say whether the decision was absolutely balanced and that there was no room to further reduce the tax burden. The tax burden, though, did not rise through tax hikes, but due to economic growth which translated into higher incomes pushing up individuals' and companies' marginal tax rates. Our policy has been to cut taxes, with the exception of the stock-market tax. Since we have been in office we have cut NIS 4.5b. in taxes, and I hope this will continue.

HEALTH TAX
Most taxpayers will not see any reduction in their tax burden from all of the tax reforms this year, and a large portion will pay higher taxes due to the health tax. When will they really see a significant drop in their taxes?

I don't agree. All of the disadvantaged will benefit from lower health taxes because of the lower rates at the bottom of the income scale, as will retirees, and recipients of National Insurance Institute payments. Based on a simulation we did, we found that about 80 percent of the population will keep more of their wages, and there will be a limited group that will pay more taxes. However, in general, there will be a balance since the reductions in income taxes, which are larger in absolute terms at higher income levels, will neutralize the increase in health taxes.

We do have a problem with working women and we therefore hope the cabinet will decide on Sunday to grant them either a full tax credit point or half a point so that the impact will be attenuated. [On Wednesday night, he announced they would receive a full tax credit point.]

Why did you institute the health tax, which is less progressive, instead of just increasing income taxes, which is more progressive?

I don't think it is less progressive. The health tax replaces a payment that was even more re-

gressive. People paid the health funds around 4% and we're talking of an increase of 0.8% to 4.8%. To convert the payment into higher income taxes, although admittedly more progressive, would impose a huge burden on the better-off population, since about 50 percent of the population which previously paid health care dues, do not pay income taxes. I think this would be a mistake.

Why does it seem that the health tax costs more than what people paid before Kupat Holim Chait was separated from the Histadrut, when ostensibly it was run inefficiently?

Not at all. In reality we did pay more since we had to cover Kupat Holim's deficits from the budget. Just last year we paid NIS 900 million - not an insignificant sum - to cover Kupat Holim's deficit. We are also giving the health-care system more money - about NIS 800 million more than before.

Do you see the health tax as an electoral threat? Because if such a tax were imposed in the US, the voters would make sure not to re-elect those responsible for it.

The Knesset adopted the law nearly unanimously. Over 100 MKs supported the law knowing the framework and the specific amounts that the taxpayers would have to pay. It is impossible to attribute [the tax] to a specific party, the coalition or the opposition, but to the Knesset as a whole.

STOCK MARKET TAX
Prime Minister Rabin embarrases you from time to time whenever he mixes in economic issues. The most famous example is his interference with the tax on capital gains. How do you explain his behavior, especially taking into account that you are his political ally?

What is written in newspaper headlines and articles is far from the reality I live and work in. It is true that on the issue of the stock-market tax there was much hesitation, which in my opinion was very bad. There wasn't enough decisiveness on the issue. However, overall, if one closely follows the central economic moves, there are no problems. At times there are mishaps and we don't always agree on everything. But in general I have no complaints.

The tax on stock-market profits seems to have been poorly thought-out despite the fact that a Treasury committee worked on it for a year. First you presented a



Shohat: It's impossible to attribute the health tax to a specific party, the coalition or the opposition, but to the Knesset as a whole.

flat 10% tax, then you came up with an option to offset losses, and in the end you opened the possibility for further changes. How do you explain all this?

This business is very complicated. By contrast, a turnover tax is simple, although it is unfair. This tax, however, is complicated and a lot of technical problems became apparent at the time of the decision.

I also want to make it clear that no decision has been made to change the tax, but like any legislation, especially of such a complicated type, we will check the results with what is actually happening in reality, like with any legislation.

INTEREST RATES
Do you see a possibility of making a deal with Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel, whereby you would agree to cut budget spending by NIS 1 billion or NIS 1.5b. in return for a substantial reduction in interest rates?

We don't do such deals with the governor, but the governor knows what I think and we will talk about it. I will present him with what the government wants to do in order to increase the profitability of exports and its anti-inflationary program, and I will tell him what I think he should do.

PEACE PROCESS
Before and after the Casablanca economic conference, everyone talked about changes in economic relations with Israel. However, progress has not been very palpa-

ble. The Europeans presented us with a trade agreement which improves very little over the 1975 version and when the Israel Export Institute organized a regional economic development conference in Eilat this month, it had to be canceled due to lack of European interest. Can we expect much from the Europeans?

I was among the ones who were very reserved about [potential] developments. I think, nevertheless, that diplomatic progress has had a very good economic impact - a reduction in the country's risk factor, growing investor interest, the opening of the Far East to our exports and the initial work to implement joint projects.

It is impossible to stand with a stopwatch and measure the changes and the agreements. Even the political process has ups and downs which influence economic developments. However, I believe we have to see this from the point of view of the atmosphere and the direction of the process, and these two are positive. To look at whether a conference took place in Eilat or not, or whether a joint venture agreement has been signed or not, is not the right attitude.

What impact do you see on the economy if the peace process gets stuck, and what are the chances that we are heading to a dead end?

If, God forbid, the political process, which contributes very much to our economic development and success, comes to a

stop, it will have very negative repercussions for us.

Do you have a contingency plan if that happens?
My political assessment is that the process won't get stuck. We have a mutual interest with the Palestinians and with the Syrians to stick with the process. Therefore I basically assume that despite all the difficulties, the process won't stop.

PRIVATIZATION
If the stock market continues running in place this year, will privatization also be stuck this year?
Privatization can proceed on other tracks. I hope this year will have better results, both in the sale of banks and government companies. A committee is also considering whether to distribute options to everyone to buy shares

in the banks and government companies. In three weeks the committee will present its findings and I will make a decision whether to go ahead with this proposal.

Why are you supporting - in the middle of the sale of Israel Chemicals' controlling interest to private investors - the move of the company's headquarters from Ramat Gan to the Negev? Don't you think investors may not like such last-minute changes?
Unlike the industry and trade minister [Micha Harish], I was not involved in any campaign to pressure the company to move its headquarters. I have felt for years that there would be no damage to the company if it moved its headquarters to Beer-sheba. I kept my distance from the issue, following the rules of fair play. I also think this is a bad time to insist on the move.

PROBLEMS WITH THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
Several economists view the looming deficit in the balance of payments as a threat to the economy that is even greater than inflation. They fear, in particular, that the government will defer the problem until the US loan-guarantee funds are exhausted after the 1996 elections. Do you agree that there is a problem, and will you deal with it before 1996?

There's no doubt that there was a problem in the size of the deficit in the balance of payments in 1994. Nevertheless, according to the latest figures, the gap shrank in the last quarter of the year. I hope that the large investments made will bear fruit and that exports will grow, and if private consumption drops as well as local demand, we will see these numbers go down. If not, we will have to deal with the problem. I don't think we will wait until 1997 to deal with it, but we'll act before.

How will you deal with the problem?
The problem is more macro-economic, in terms of the exchange rate, the savings rate and local demand, than an issue of higher duties or import levies.

Do you think we are heading toward a similar currency crisis that occurred in Mexico recently?
I don't know all the details, but I understand that the peso [exchange rate] was stuck at the top of the exchange-rate band for a long period of time and everyone worried that something would happen. By contrast, [the shekel] is standing relatively close to the mid-point on the diagonal band of the "crawling peg" exchange rate system. I hope the steps the government will take and the agreement between the Histadrut and the business sector will clearly broadcast stability and that we won't need to have recourse to

changes to our exchange-rate policy.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK

What chances do you give to the establishment of a regional development bank with a Republican Congress who won't be in a hurry to waste the money, unless it can cut foreign aid?

The president [of the US] is behind the project, although other players in the world economy are not supportive. I think that the original proposal to put up initial capital of \$10 billion won't happen. It will be far from that. Nonetheless I think there's a chance that some sort of framework will be established which will reflect the level of economic activity in the area, but I still don't know how exactly it will look.

CHANGES AT THE HISTADRUT

Many people have eulogized the Histadrut and the trade unions. What will be the economic repercussions of their demise?

As a representative body, the Histadrut will be a much more atomized body and the independent trade unions will operate independently of each other. This already happened during the last wage negotiations in the public sector. We now have to adjust to the Western European model where there is no central body representing the workers, leaving the representation to individual trade unions. The down side is that you have to negotiate with more groups.

The change will mean that the local trade unions will be more powerful and the central trade union and the works committees will get weaker.

Do you think this will cost the economy more?

I don't know. We are a much more flexible economy than we were 10 years ago. The most prominent example of this is what actually happened last year to public-sector workers after the large wage hikes. Everyone predicted that private-sector wages would follow suit and we see they didn't. We are a more open economy, with company agreements and with salaries linked to productivity. The rigid system, which was very hard on the economy, almost doesn't exist anymore.

What does this mean to the Israeli worker? Will he become like the Thai worker who can be exploited?

No. Because the Israeli worker and the Thai worker, there are the Danish, German, English and French worker. Our model is not the worker from Hong Kong or Thailand; we are talking about a social-democratic system, a more sophisticated system which exists in Western Europe.

ישראל, דצמבר 1994 תשי"ד - סוכן תעשייה - ישראלי - פנת תקרה, ישראלי

AN OUTCRY FOR A VERY URGENT APPEAL TO HELP SAVING THE LIFE OF NOA-ESTHER SCHWARTZ, LONG MAY SHE LIVE, ONLY 17 YEARS OLD

We, the parents and siblings of Noa Esther Schwartz, together with the members of the Public Committee and friends of "The Fund to Save Noa Esther Schwartz", turn to you again with great urgency, to help us continue to provide Noa the necessary respiratory rehabilitation treatment in both lungs, diagnostic treatment and medical follow-up. This treatment follows the operations, conducted in Brompton Hospital in London in June 1993 and September 1994, in which metastases were removed from both lungs. These surgeries were conducted after Noa underwent a long series of operations and chemotherapy treatment in Israel and abroad. These included surgery to remove a growth in the bone of her right leg and to insert a 25 cm. metal implant. There have been a total of eight operations in the last five years between 1990-1994. According to the recommendations of her doctors in Israel and abroad, Noa is in need of medical follow-up using the CT IMATRON apparatus which is located in the U.S., England and a number of other countries excluding Israel, where there is no such apparatus available.

We have arrived at a critical and sensitive point where the precise follow-up of what is happening in Noa's lungs is essential to saving her life, since half of her right lung and portion of her left lung have been removed, due to the metastases which were detected in them. We are scheduled to travel to the Brompton Hospital in London in the very near future, for essential tests using the IMATRON apparatus and at that time the surgeons and oncologists will determine Noa's prognosis. Today Noa is capable of breathing 70% of the respiratory ability of someone of her age. She suffers from shortness of breath which restricts her normal functioning.

Noa has become a symbol, due to her heroic struggle with the disease which was detected when she was twelve years of age. Despite all the difficulties and great suffering she has experienced time after time, she has faced this disease with great courage, and thank God she has retained her strong spirit and her frail body is coping.

Please help us grant life to this remarkable girl who is so deserving, and who so longs to do her national service which is scheduled to begin at the end of this year, following her graduation from the Upanit Bnei Akiva High School in Tel-Aviv. Without your noble aid, we would not have been able to carry this difficult and heavy burden. We receive no aid from Kupat Cholim Laumit sick fund, nor from any other institution. We therefore ask you to stand by our side once again in this wonderful campaign to save a life.

Emergency aid can be transferred directly to the home of Haya and Moshe Schwartz, 8 Harav Unterman st. Petach-Tikva, 49270, or directly to the "Fund to Save Noa Esther Schwartz" bank account at Bank Mizrahi (Bank 20 Seaside branch 452, Kikar Haatzmaut 12 Netanya 42271, Account 531570).

Rabbis of cities and settlements, heads of communities in Israel and abroad, alumni of Bnei Akiva, Yeshivot Hesder, Noam Schools and anyone concerned with the suffering of others, are asked to donate what they can, in order to grant Noa life.

With our warmest blessings,
Haya and Moshe Schwartz and the Family
the Committee for the Saving of Noa Esther Schwartz
"חוקו ויזייס רמות וביניים כושלות אנוני" (ישיבה לה, ה)
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Abu Mazen's book: Dog-eared revelations with little bite despite the barking

What's the fuss? Politicians, including prominent members of both Labor and Likud, had a string of contacts with the PLO while that was still illegal, Steve Rodan reports

JANUARY 19, 1992. The Labor Party was in the middle of an exhausting primary campaign and party convention. Yossi Beilin slipped into Cairo.

That morning, Yehoshua Meiri was having coffee with a US diplomat at the Hilton Ramses Hotel. From the corner of his eye, Meiri, a correspondent for Israel Radio and the now-defunct daily *Hadashot*, saw Beilin approach, pass him and enter a nearby door.

Meiri, who has known Beilin for years, says no words were spoken. Several minutes later, Nabil Shaath, now regarded as Yasser Arafat's top aide, appeared and walked into the room where Beilin was waiting. Outside the door stood an Egyptian security guard.

"Later," Meiri recalls, "a PLO representative told me that Beilin promised Shaath that if Labor won the elections, it would stop settlements, lift the ban on meeting the PLO and agree to autonomy on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338."

Israelis might have been startled by the revelations of Mahmoud Abbas's book *The Road to Oslo*, in which he details the illegal contacts between Israeli politicians and the PLO. But to Israeli and Egyptian diplomatic sources in Cairo and Israeli-Arab politicians, the furtive meetings and secret deals were common knowledge.

The book by Abbas, or Abu Mazen as he is called, has been circulating for months and has been excerpted in several newspapers in the region, including *Ha'aretz*. In the chapter entitled "Indirect Contacts with the Labor Party," Abu Mazen says Labor leaders, including Yitzhak Rabin and Ephraim Sneh, discussed ways of increasing Israeli-Arab voter turnout to defeat the Likud. They also discussed PLO strategy in negotiations with the Likud-led government of prime minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Abu Mazen also asserts that PLO representatives met with Likud figures in Europe in December 1992, but the two sides were sharply divided.

Virtually all of the politicians who were said to have met with the PLO dismissed Abu Mazen's book as a pack of lies. Indeed, Abu Mazen himself denied the assertions in his book, and Ahmed Tibi, special adviser to Arafat, said most of the chapter on secret Israeli-PLO meetings was surreptitiously inserted by a PLO aide.

FOR HIS part, Meiri - who today is chairman of an association that promotes ties between Israel and the Arab world - recalls he met Beilin in Cairo hours after the latter's purported 1992 session with Shaath. The Knesset member - today deputy foreign minister - denied, and continues to deny, the entire episode.

The revelations by Abu Mazen haven't surprised Israeli intelligence circles. They have long known of secret meetings between Israeli politicians and the PLO. As prime minister in the mid-1970s, Rabin would receive reports from Maj.-Gen. (res.) Matityahu Peled of his private meetings with Arafat.

Since the early 1980s, prominent members of the Israeli left, many of them leaders of today's Meretz faction in the government coalition, have been meeting with PLO figures. Some of the meetings took place in Rome, others in Tunis.

Ran Cohen, Meretz's faction leader in the Knesset, says he met Shaath in 1992 with the knowledge of Shamir and the General Security Service. He said neither raised an objection.

Labor Party contacts with the PLO started

with talks Shimon Peres and Beilin had with Faisal Hussein, who in the mid-1980s was regarded as the most senior PLO agent locally. Yael Dayan developed contacts with the PLO leadership in Tunis, and she often met them at conferences in Europe and the US.

"There were talks all the time, and the participants talked about everything," recalls Moshe Amirav, who as a member of the Likud central committee held talks with the PLO. Amirav was ejected from the party for taking part in these meetings, but he has always claimed that he was acting with Shamir's consent and introduced several Likud senior members to local PLO figures.

Senior security sources said Shamir was informed of meetings by Labor Party members with the PLO. The sources said the Israelis who met with the PLO wanted to direct them on how to deal with the government and with Israeli public opinion.

The sources said several Labor Party figures were involved in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Avraham Tamir, director-general of the Foreign Ministry in the late 1980s, worked by himself to establish contacts with the PLO.

BEILIN LATER joined the effort and formed his own contacts. Yair Hirschfeld, a Haifa University professor and confidant of both Peres and Beilin, introduced Beilin to many in the PLO. In late 1992, Hirschfeld began the first of a series of meetings that led to the Israel-PLO accord in Oslo in August 1993.

Through most of the mid-1980s, Shamir was not certain whether senior Labor Party officials were meeting PLO agents until 1990, when it was revealed that then-science minister Ezer Weizman, today the nation's president, had contacts with a senior PLO member.

Shamir tried, unsuccessfully, to fire Weizman, and in the end was content to force him out of the ministerial committee on security. Shamir came to the conclusion that raising the issue would again spark political bickering and hurt morale in the intelligence agencies without changing anything.

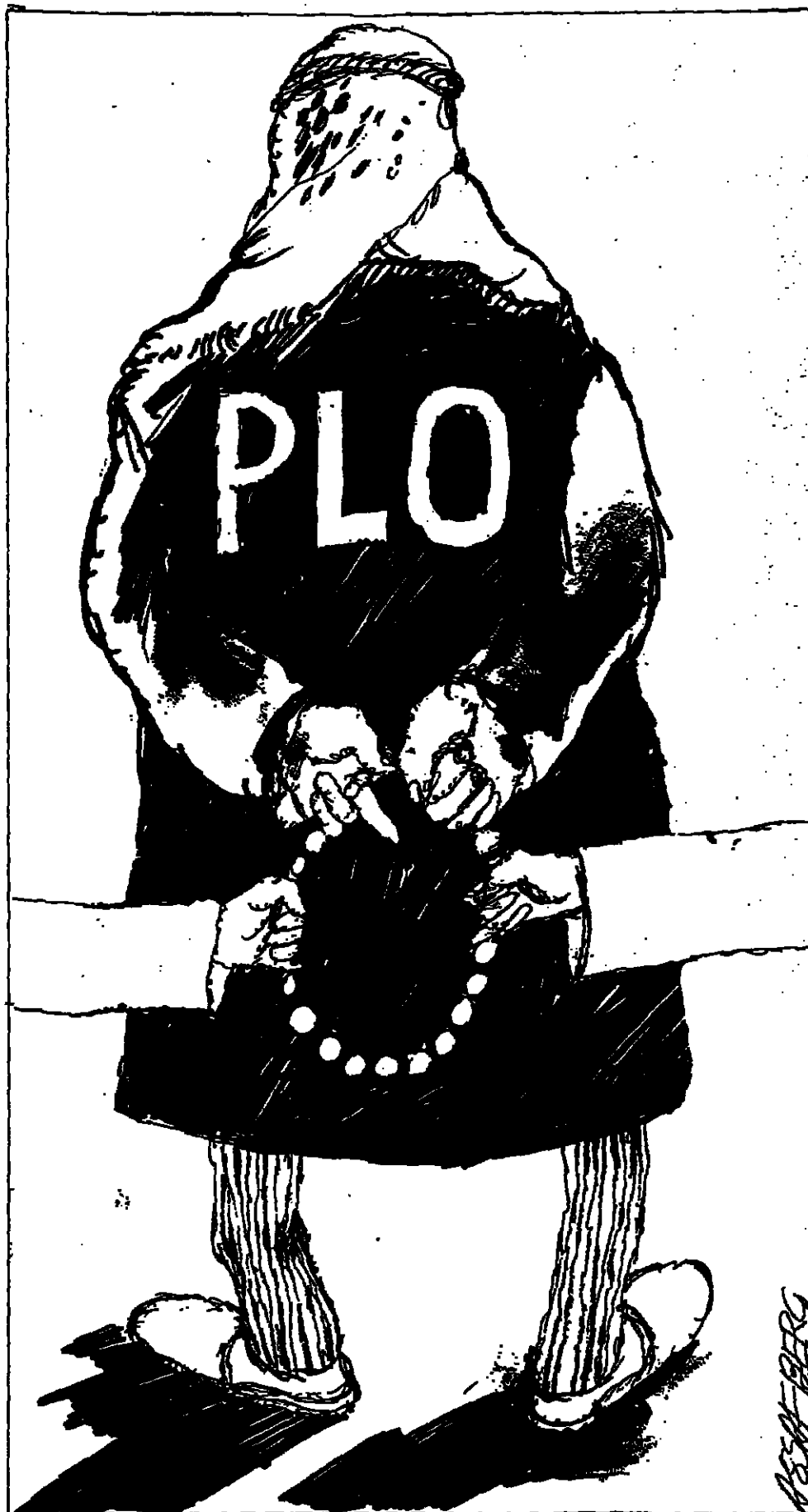
PLO contacts with Israeli politicians intensified after the 1991 Gulf war. Egyptian-Israeli relations were poor, and diplomatic sources in Cairo say President Hosni Mubarak was looking for a way to bolster the Labor Party, which had just entered the opposition. One idea was to bring Labor Party figures together with senior PLO officials other than Arafat, then ostracized by much of the Arab world for having supported Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Diplomatic sources in Cairo recall that Labor Party leaders, particularly Beilin and Peres, tried to use confidants based in Egypt to pass messages to the PLO, particularly to Shaath, Abu Mazen and PLO envoy Said Kamal. Israeli sources confirm this assertion.

For his part, Arafat was seeking to form ties with the Likud, particularly Shamir and housing minister Ariel Sharon, to prove that the PLO, despite being ostracized by the Arab states, was still a potential negotiating partner of Israel, and to discourage attempts to form an alternative leadership in the territories.

"Both Shaath and Abu Mazen sent messages to Shamir," Meiri says, "but they were rejected."

Israeli-Arab politicians acknowledge that they, too, were involved in the PLO contacts. Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, mayor of Shfaram and chairman of the Arab Follow-Up Committee,



recalls being summoned to a meeting in Cairo with Abu Mazen on April 19, 1992. He was joined by Arab Democratic Party head Abdul Wahab Darawshe and Progressive List for Peace head Mohammed Mian.

ABU MAZEN and Mubarak's chief adviser, Osama el-Baz (who apparently did not hesitate to get involved in Israeli internal politics), wanted the parties of Darawshe and Mian to unite. Their fear was that the Arab vote would be split and neither list would get into the Knesset. The victor would be the Likud.

"My sense when we met three months before the elections in the Knesset with Abu Mazen was that the PLO leadership was interested that the Labor Party win the Knesset elections and form the next government in Israel," Hussein recalls.

Hussein says that until the last days of the Knesset campaign in June 1992, the PLO, which ordered polls of Israeli Arabs, pressed Mian to drop out of the race and give his support to Darawshe. Mian refused and failed to win a Knesset seat.

Meiri, who detailed the account in a February 1993 article in *Hadashot*, recalls that after the Labor victory in 1992, the PLO demanded that the Rabin government fulfill the promises made by Beilin in Cairo. Weeks later, the Labor coalition announced a freeze on Jewish settlements in the territories.

But Arafat and his aides, backed by Egyptian pressure, wanted Israel to lift the ban on meetings with the PLO. When Rabin didn't move

quickly enough, PLO aides in October 1992 leaked a story of a secret meeting between the organization's leadership and a "senior Labor Party personality" in the beginning of that year. At the same time, the PLO ordered a crisis in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on autonomy in Washington.

The PLO increased the pressure in December when Arafat met with Hamas leaders in Khartoum and privately threatened Israel that he would join with Palestinian opponents of peace talks. The move worked and by the end of 1992 Meretz leaders with close ties to the PLO were advocating open negotiations with the organization.

In January 1993, the Knesset voted to lift the ban on meetings with the PLO.

Palestinian sources close to Abu Mazen dismiss the claim that his book's chapter on secret contacts with the Labor Party was a mistake. They point out that Abu Mazen began the book immediately after the Declaration of Principles was signed in September 1993, and believed that by the time he completed his memoirs his revelations would hardly raise a stir.

Today, the sources say, Abu Mazen is preparing to live in the territories as a leading aide to Arafat. Given the choice of hurting his future or his credibility, he chose the latter.

"You have to remember," a Palestinian source says with a smile, "that Abu Mazen's book was true until the Israelis began making a big deal out of it and turned it into a threat that could hurt the continuation of the peace process."

Labor reaction may do more damage than book itself

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR made a grave mistake, senior party leaders agreed after last weekend's eruption of the Abu Mazen affair.

The mistake was not in conducting meetings with the PLO, but in the party's response to the reports.

Almost everyone believed that the party leadership had protested too much, too hysterically and too furiously, creating the impression that there was method to Abu Mazen's madness. Instead, it should have brushed off the allegations and refused to comment.

"What was Labor's crime?" senior party sources asked after the storm died down. "Conspiring" with our worst enemy - the PLO - at the same time that Likud leaders were doing the same. The Likud, however, disputes the book's account of its secret contacts, labeling it "all lies," while referring to the allegations about Labor as "a terrible affair, bordering on treason."

While the talks between Labor and the PLO were allegedly taking place, the Labor sources say, the Likud was also conducting official talks with the Palestinian organization's leaders. At the time, the Likud argued that the Palestinian delegates from the territories had nothing to do with the PLO in Tunis, from which they quite openly received ongoing telephone instructions.

Abu Mazen's book accuses Labor of asking the PLO to slow negotiations with the Likud-led government and to intervene in the Knesset election.

As for the first charge, Labor sources say, slowing down the talks appeared to have been just what the Likud was aiming for, so why the fuss?

The second charge is even more ludicrous, because with or without the PLO's intervention, it is difficult to imagine tens of thousands of Arabs voting for Mofet or Tzomet, rather than for Darawshe, Meretz or Labor.

Still others say that political intervention in other states' internal power relations is routine. Furthermore, if Labor asked the PLO to sway Israel's Arabs to vote for those parties promoting the peace process, then what is the crime?

THE ONLY one to concede that the affair might cause the party damage is Labor secretary-general Nissim Zivli, who joined the Likud's demand for a commission of inquiry, "so the truth can come out and to prevent the Likud from attaching the stigma of treason to Labor."

As one who supported the meetings with the PLO and who was involved in whatever contacts were held, Zivli continued: "I know that the Likud's accusations are groundless. And if Bibi [Netanyahu] had bothered to make one phone call [to the General Security Service] he would know it too. But instead he preferred to make bombastic statements to the media."

Protesting Labor ministers received help from an unexpected quarter, when MK Benny Begin stated: "When a man is a member of a murderous terror organization, it is no wonder that he is a liar, too. If I had to decide who was more credible, Health Minister Ephraim Sneh or Abu Mazen, I have no doubt I would choose Mr. Sneh. And even if I had to choose between Peres and Abu Mazen, I would not choose the latter."

The general consensus in Labor is that had the government not been at such a low ebb, it would have casually shaken off the Abu Mazen affair. But after the blows of the health tax, the capital gains tax and *Time* magazine's story on the poll predicting victory for the Likud if elections were held now, the government finds itself knocked out by a radio report which had already been published in *Ha'aretz* four months ago.

On the street, "the most terrible, reasonable conspiracy ever," as the Likud has called it, was all talked-out and forgotten two days later. At the minimarket on Shlomo Hamelech and Frishman streets in Tel Aviv, owners and customers were moaning in unison Monday morning about the prices of dairy products, which had just gone up.

"What Mazen-Shmazen?" retorted owner No'am impatiently to my question.

"This," he shouted, holding up a strawberry yogurt, "this will be the downfall of this government."

Women forge the links for peace at pre/post Oslo dialogue

IMPLEMENTATION of the Oslo Declaration of Principles is bogged down, but Palestinian and Israeli women are working together to advance the status of women.

At "A Pre/Post Oslo Agreement Dialogue" held this week by the Jerusalem Link, a Palestinian-Israeli coordinating body for two women's centers, many participants suggested that more headway would have been made in implementing the DOP if women had been involved in the deliberations.

Former schoolteacher Rada Zughair, who was born in eastern Jerusalem, has been participating in dialogues with Israelis since 1981, when she was elected

public relations representative of the Union of Palestinian Women's Working Committee.

Her duties, which included coordinating with regional and international women's organizations, brought her into contact with Israeli groups such as the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, the Israeli Communist Party, Women in Black, Women Against Occupation, and some of the most dovish elements of Labor.

During the intifada, new coordinating groups were established with women who today are primarily connected with Meretz, said Zughair, who also heads the Jerusalem Center for Women in Beit Hanina.

"I believe that the dialogue in which women were the initiators has broken down psychological barriers on both sides," Zughair says. "We succeeded in establishing some kind of shared understanding about the urgent need to solve the Israel-Palestinian conflict. We have been building bridges of trust."

Nonetheless, the huge, largely sympathetic turnout at the Ambassador Hotel for the Jerusalem Link conference surprised both Zughair and her west Jerusalem counterpart Daphna Golan.

Formally registered as a women's joint venture for peace, the Jerusalem Link, which officially came into being in March, is dedicated to the promotion of women's rights and empowerment. It also promotes the rights of the Palestinian people to self-rule alongside Israel.

GREER FAY CASHMAN

Members agree to disagree on some political issues, but the Jerusalem Link in its general promotion of activities serves as a successful example of mutual respect, reciprocity and coexistence.

It developed from a common desire by wives and mothers to ensure that their husbands and children would not become the casualties of war. Israeli and Palestinian women have been publicly "dialoguing" since long before the ban on contacts between Israelis and the PLO was lifted.

Preempting the Oslo accord, Palestinian and Israeli women meeting in Brussels in 1989 took a giant step toward peace when they signed an agreement of mutual recognition and Palestinian self-determination.

Their initiative came two years before the Madrid Conference and four years before the September 1993 signing of the Declaration of Principles.

In gaining insights on Israeli views, Zughair has not lost sight of her own nationalist aspirations and stresses the need to put a freeze on all settlement activity and resolve questions on the status of Jerusalem. She is an ardent advocate of family reunification, Palestinian rights to build in Jerusalem, the release of political prisoners and the acceleration of Palestinian elections.

These are the issues on which she is most outspoken. As for the women's agenda, she plans courses for potential leaders, courses in business management in conjunction with Bat Shalom - the Jerusalem Women's Action Center - and lectures and workshops highlighting the fears and concerns of Palestinian women.

Daphna Golan, a faculty member of the Hebrew University's department of African studies, went from Bat Shalom, of which she was a founder, to head Bat

Shalom. Because the Jerusalem Link has two agendas - one feminist and the other national - she pointed out that "there are always attempts to redefine priorities between the two agendas."

But even with the seesawing of priorities, the dialogue continues. Golan emphasized the importance of dialogue in learning "to understand the other side" and in developing "cooperation that never existed before."

The benefits of dialogue, noted Zughair, were recognized even by Palestinian women opposed to the peace process. At internal forums, she said, they speak against dialogue, but "acknowledge Israeli allies for Palestinian rights."

Some Palestinians, however, are disappointed that their Meretz allies in the cabinet and the Knesset do not always vote according to their conscience.

Although Hebrew classes are not yet included in her center's program, Zughair (together with several other Palestinian women) is studying Hebrew because "dialogue will be more pro-

ductive if you know the language."

Although the two centers come together on many strategies, there are areas in which they operate separately. "There is no sense for Israeli and Palestinian women to work together on the personal status of women," Golan observed.

Concurring on this, Zughair explained that the differences in Palestinian and Israeli cultures were reflected in attitudes to women. "Israeli women have achieved more toward status because they have a society with a well-established government," she said. "It's a different position from the Palestinian people where the National Authority is still weak and does not have enough mandatory power."

Many of the women have developed strong friendships and visit each other at home. But even among friends, said Zughair, "there are moments of conflict. It isn't always simple and easy. Sometimes we are stuck - especially when each is committed to her own national lines."

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What the US is whispering to Israel about Iran

In public, US officials play down the Iranian threat, but confide they've failed to thwart Teheran's ambitions to become a nuclear power, Steve Rodan reports

ISRAEL and the US are engaged in a debate over Iran's nuclear capability. Echoing the argument over Iraq's nonconventional prowess in 1990, Washington and Jerusalem sharply disagree over how close Iran is to acquiring a nuclear weapon. US and Israeli officials say the subject was a major point of discussion during Defense Secretary William Perry's two-day visit this week.

The disagreement has intensified in recent weeks and calls into question the extent of future US military aid and strategic ties to Israel. Officials here say Washington might hesitate to fulfill Israel's security requests if it does not share Jerusalem's view of the immediacy of the Iranian threat.

As a result, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his military aides pressed the issue of the threat. Perry and his entourage responded by urging Israel to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, scheduled for renewal in April.

By the end of the visit, some Israeli officials were frustrated. "Perry understands technology very well, and that was helpful in explaining some of our needs [for military hardware]," a senior defense source said. "But when it came to our intelligence briefings, he seemed lost. We could have done away with all of them."

Both countries agree that, left alone, Iran is years away from developing a nuclear weapon. Perry and Rabin said that Teheran would need between seven and 15 years to produce an atomic bomb.

The difference in assessments concern Iran's ability to acquire foreign aid. Israel has concluded that - given current assistance from China, North Korea and Russia - Iran could achieve nuclear capability by mid-1996. Israel argues that the combination of nuclear aid from these three countries and sophisticated dual technology provided by Germany - civilian technology which can be adapted for military purposes - has brought Iran extremely close to having all the elements of a bomb.

Rabin made it clear that Iran could surprise the West with nuclear weapons the same way North Korea did last year. "If they [Iranians] get outside help, you can't give any assessment," said Rabin, who was careful not to disagree with Perry, at a joint press conference on Monday.

US intelligence assessments, however, are that despite Iranian efforts to obtain nuclear



US Defense Secretary William Perry (left), accompanied this week by OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine, on a helicopter tour of the Golan, insists that Israel's signing the NPT is essential for stopping Iran.

technology, Teheran is still at least a decade away from its target. Some Pentagon analysts maintain the Iranians are so technologically backward that, even with all of the parts, they will be unable to build a bomb themselves.

Israeli officials were hoping that Rabin, who also serves as defense minister, would be able to persuade Perry that Iran is far more advanced in its nuclear program than both countries had thought only months ago. Over the last few weeks, Washington acknowledged that North Korean military assistance to Teheran had been more substantial than it previously believed.

US officials now confirm assertions by South Korean intelligence that Teheran has received the medium-range Nodong missile from North Korea, capable of striking Israel from Iran. They add that the smuggling of nuclear equipment from the former Soviet Union to Iran and other countries with ambitions to achieve nuclear capability has been easier than expected.

Privately, senior US officials say their efforts

to stop even an ally such as Germany from halting its supply of dual technology to Iran have failed. The officials say Germany regards Iran's ambitions to turn nuclear as America's problem. This despite the fact that "Iran is making a very aggressive military effort across the board," to quote Richard Perle, former assistant defense secretary in the Reagan administration.

But publicly Perry played down the Iranian threat, saying that the US is working hard with Russia and several other republics of the former Soviet Union to prevent the flow of nuclear equipment or technology. "I don't think there is any likelihood of it getting to Iran," Perry said.

Moreover, US officials made it clear that they were not swayed by the latest Iranian deals to acquire nuclear technology. On Sunday, Russia was awarded an \$800 million deal to complete construction of an Iranian nuclear facility where work was halted by the 1979 Islamic revolution.

"There has been no change in US assessments

of Iran," a Defense Department aide to Perry said this week.

But the officials, including Perry, maintain that only a concerted international effort will ensure that Iran is unable to complete the development of a nuclear weapon. Such an effort will fail, they say, unless Israel commits itself to signing the NPT, to which Iran is a signatory. It's an argument that Israel is also hearing from European officials.

EGYPT, THE first stop on Perry's tour, has threatened not to sign the accord unless Israel does so as well. Moreover, Cairo is trying to recruit other developing countries which are signatories to the agreement to adopt the same position.

Israel argues that the NPT has proven to be ineffective in stopping nuclear proliferation. Officials point out that Iran, Iraq and North Korea have signed the NPT, and they either have or are secretly developing nuclear weapons.

Instead, Rabin has proposed that Israel create a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East by signing peace and nonconventional-disarmament accords with all the countries in the region. Quietly, US and Israeli officials are exploring several ideas, one of which has Israel announcing its commitment to sign the NPT at an as-yet-unspecified date, while meanwhile agreeing to end production of nuclear materials.

Israeli officials say US attempts to link the NPT with the campaign to stop Iran from going nuclear reflects Washington's naivete. They recall US assurances over the past three years that Israel's signing of other arms-control agreements would result in its Arab neighbors following suit.

Defense Ministry Director-General David Ivry recalls US pressure for Israel to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention, banning the production and proliferation of such weapons. Jerusalem announced in 1992 that it would sign and did so a year later.

Ivry says the US also promised that Israel would share the benefits of belonging to the organization set up by the convention, which so far has been snubbed by many developing countries.

Instead, Israel has remained isolated. For 18 months, Ivry says, Israel has been unable to join any of the CWC regional groups - where policy is discussed - because of opposition by Iran and Australia, which say Israel doesn't belong in either Asia or Europe.

"After we participated, we became nothing," Ivry said.

An Israeli official who specializes in arms control says a compromise is taking shape whereby Israel will be able to join the European group.

MAJ.-GEN. Uzi Dayan, speaking last month at a seminar organized by Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, said 1995 will be the year of Israeli decision to stop nuclear weapons in the Middle East. He warned against believing that a nuclear Iran will not use its weapons.

"We are in an area where the rationality of leaders is called into doubt," he said.

But this is exactly what the Iranians don't want Israel to believe.

Prof. Amatzia Baram of Haifa University participated in some talks with Iranians, which took place in Washington in September. He says the Iranians were disturbed over Israel's campaign against Teheran.

"They told me, 'What does it bother you what we're doing?'" Baram said. "We have nothing against you, and what we say publicly is not serious."

Baram recalls giving the following response: "You can develop weapons and make peace with us, or you can engage in hostile rhetoric and stop your nuclear program. You can't do both."

The Haifa professor is skeptical that the US will be able to stop Teheran despite what he regards as considerable efforts by Washington.

"Dual containment is very partial," Baram said, referring to the US policy of preventing Iraq and Iran from going nuclear. "When it comes to Iran, it is very, very limited."

First a compassionate man, then a diplomat, finally a hero

A recently published collection of Raoul Wallenberg's letters depicts him as a 'natural' diplomat, David Isaacson writes

Letters and Dispatches 1924-1944, Raoul Wallenberg. New York: Arcade Publishing. 286 pp. \$24.95.

HUNDREDS of thousands of Jews were saved from the Holocaust by the unlikely of heroes. Oskar Schindler was a hard-drinking womanizer; Chitane Sugihara an obscure Japanese diplomat. The greatest "why" of all, Raoul Wallenberg, was an unsuccessful and seemingly cold Swedish businessman.

These letters, published to mark the 50th anniversary of Wallenberg's disappearance, reveal a courtly, diffident, dutiful figure. Born to a hugely wealthy family, Wallenberg traveled the world on the advice of his stern, patrician grandfather, with whom most of the correspondence included here was exchanged.

An early example of Wallenberg's compassion can be seen in a 1933 letter from Greenwich, Connecticut, in which he takes exception to his Uncle Mech's de-

fense of lynching. Though there is no suggestion that he was a Zionist, his letters from Haifa, where he studied bank management in 1936, reveal his admiration and sympathy for the Jews. But most significant, in light of his future work, is his talent for diplomacy. In a letter from Cape Town, where he was training to be an architect, the young Wallenberg writes of a local business dispute: "I don't agree at all.... However, I intend to write them a letter thanking them for their opinion and asking their advice, which I hope will flatter them."

Back in Stockholm in the 1940s, he developed business connections which took him to Hungary. There he made contact with the US War Refugee Board, through which he was assigned to head a rescue effort for the Jews. The Nazis had invaded Hungary in March 1944 and a special unit headed by Adolf Eichmann was set up to administer "the Final Solution" to the Jewish question.

WALLENBERG immediately



Wallenberg: Unsuccessful in business, successful in saving Jews.

organized his own rescue program. He was uniquely, almost miraculously, prepared for it. Early letters show that he had not enjoyed his banking experiences, but the knowledge he gleaned was very useful in 1944 Budapest. Even his architecture projects at the University of Michigan, such as the assignment to design affordable housing, prove useful. In Budapest he had to find a way to fit 35,000 people in buildings designed for fewer than 5,000.

In one memorandum, he ap-

peals for international publicity, writing, "The Anglo-Saxon broadcasts [presumably overseas radio services from the UK and US] have been roundly criticized for being filled with general threats of retribution while offering little help." Ironically, in view of his own fate, he continues, "The Russian propaganda, which suggests magnanimity and love of peace, is generally thought to be better."

In another he records that "20,000 to 50,000 Jews are thought to be hidden in Budapest by Christian friends." Yet he also cites "the lukewarm sympathy of the Christian population."

The letters to his mother are more personal in their insights into his everyday work. For example the commandant of a detention camp on the Austrian border "refused to see me at first, then he allotted me five minutes, and finally, after negotiating for four hours, I managed to have 80 people released the very same day and sent to Budapest." With typical understatement, he adds, "It was quite a moving sight."

There was of course great danger: "Thugs are roaming the city, beating, torturing and shooting people. Among my staff alone there have been 40 cases of kidnapping and beating."

The day he wrote the last letter quoted above, December 8, 1944, the Soviet army's siege of Budapest began. Soviet authorities took Wallenberg into their

"protective custody" and sent him to Moscow's Lubyanka Prison on January 17, 1945. He was never heard from again.

He had saved some 100,000 Jews, largely through the distribution of "Wallenberg passports" - one of which is reproduced here - and his establishment of an "international ghetto."

Exactly why heroes like Wallenberg and Schindler risked their necks to save the Jews remains a mystery. Perhaps the best answer is that given by Sugihara who, on being awarded the status of Righteous Gentile, said: "I just did what we as human beings should do."

The Soviets denied any knowledge of Wallenberg's whereabouts until 1957, when then foreign minister Andrei Gromyko announced that he had died of a heart attack in the Lubyanka in 1947. There is ample but inconclusive evidence that this was not the case, and efforts to determine his fate continue.

This illustrated volume includes introductions by Wallenberg's cousins and by fellow Swedish diplomat and hero in Hungary, Per Anger. There is also an afterword by Rachel Oestreicher Haspel, president of the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the US.

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After college – private lessons in pain

Leah couldn't break away on her own: The man who beat her also tended her wounds. Laura Rosen Cohen reports

LEAH is an artist, but her husband never let her exhibit her works. There is only one picture he wants everyone to see: her portrait – alongside those of women murdered by their husbands or boyfriends.

"My husband saw an article with pictures of women who had been murdered by their husbands," she begins, matter-of-factly. Then, her speech slowing as if she still can't believe it, she recounts: "He said, 'More power to them; those are real men.'"

"Then he told me that I would be the next picture in the newspaper. He said he would bring his Kalashnikov and kill me."

Now, Leah (who asked that her real name not be used) is seeking a divorce with the help of WIZO's legal advisers.

Leah, who still lives in her home in an urban area with her three children, is highly articulate. She was born here, and graduated from a teachers' seminary and an art academy. She is one of the educated and professional women who are seeking help from WIZO's new center in Jerusalem's affluent Beit Hakerem neighborhood. Like them, she tried to leave her husband, but did not succeed on her own. The abuse started when she became pregnant with their first child.

"As soon as it began, I tried to leave," Leah, now in her late thirties, says of her 16-year marriage. "I didn't know what to do. I didn't even tell my family about what was happening because they live far away. I spent many nights outside, wandering in the rain because he would lock me out of the house. Then, when I was pregnant, he threw me down a flight of stairs. I was very frightened."

Leah says her husband, who comes from a respected upper-class family, is a large man who also once beat his brother.

His behavior would change completely after the beatings. "He apologized to me, and said he was sorry. [When] I finally started divorce proceedings, he tried to talk me out of it. He said we would go to counseling, and said he couldn't live without me," she says.

He managed to persuade her to stop the proceedings. But the beatings continued.

PEOPLE WHO criticize women for remaining in abusive relationships don't understand the situation, says Tamar Sani, director of Jerusalem's WIZO Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Violence Against Women.

"An American psychologist, Lenor Walker, once came up



Leah tried again and again to leave her husband, but he kept wooing her back. (H. Guttman)

with a description of the situation," Sani says. "It is build-up, incident, then honeymoon."

"In the build-up phase, the woman knows that an incident is brewing. She tries to take better care of him, to be good to him. But no matter how hard she tries, there is a violent incident."

"After the incident, the husband is sorry, he apologizes, and there is a real honeymoon, with true intimacy. She gets confused because the same hands that beat her up take care of the wounds," Sani notes.

Sani points out that WIZO is concerned from the first moment the woman calls for help.

THE WIZO women's organiza-

tion is marking its 75th anniversary this year. Its activities include giving assistance to battered women through its hotline services, shelters, and centers for abused women. It also lobbies the Knesset for tougher legislation to protect women from domestic violence, and holds workshops for teachers, judges, police and others.

Sani says 60 women have contacted the Jerusalem center since it opened five months ago.

Domestic violence is not a problem that affects only the poorer sectors, she stresses.

"University-educated women come here for help. There are women who work in the private and the public sectors. Usually, we hear less about women in the middle and upper classes who are abused, [because] they are more embarrassed about the stigma attached to violence," she says.

Establishing the Jerusalem center in the Beit Hakerem

neighborhood has enabled WIZO to reach women who might otherwise not come for help.

"There is a lot to do in this area," says Irit Rosenblum, the Tel Aviv-based director of WIZO's Department for the Status of Women. "But what we really need to do is make these women independent."

After treatment at a shelter, the women are given a "halfway" apartment, according to Rosenblum. The low-rent apartment is provided by the Housing Ministry and is located near a shelter.

Rosenblum notes that, in many cases, women go back to their husbands for economic reasons.

"He doesn't give me any child support," says Leah, "and now he says he will only give me a divorce if I agree to get no money and no part of the house."

For Leah, housing and money are just some of her many problems. She says her children have

suffered greatly because of her husband's abuse.

"My children's lives are ruined. He beat them. One of my kids has tried to commit suicide twice and refuses to go to school. My eldest is scared to leave me alone at home. He says: 'I can't leave Mommy alone because Daddy will come and kill her.' He has been at home for a year and a half and nobody cares," she says.

She also says that one of her children has adopted violent behavior at school.

"I'm scared of him. I see him on the street, walking around, free," she says, and starts to cry. "Who wants to save me? He tried to drown me once in the bathtub. He tried to choke me by stepping on my neck. One time he broke my neck. I went to the emergency room and told them that I had fallen in the bathtub."

"Once he urinated on me in front of our children."

"He never let me work, but he holds a steady job. I paint and draw, but he would never let me show my work, or take a job."

Leah says she does sell some of her art, but is constantly borrowing money to pay bills.

ACCORDING TO Rosenblum, there has to be a many-faceted approach to the problem.

"The police have to be involved; there has to be better education. It is not just changing the laws, or just education," says Rosenblum.

Rosenblum criticizes the authorities for being too lenient with wife-beating husbands.

"I know of a case where a woman was beaten and his punishment was five weeks of community service, and an NIS 1,000 fine. That isn't a deterrent, that's a joke," says Sani.

Sani adds that both secular and religious women have called for help. In Haredi circles, women often turn to rabbis for help.

"The rabbis return them to the house for the sake of *shlom bayit*, and tell them they aren't being good enough wives," Sani says.

According to Rosenblum, WIZO is implementing a number of new programs and has proposed three laws. One proposal is to force an abusive husband to pay his wife compensation. Under the second law, a husband convicted of abuse would be required to post a large bond for a period of two years. If he behaves, he would get his bond back.

The third bill, she says, deals with gun licensing.

"We proposed that anyone who wants to get a gun license or renew their current license be required to pass psychological tests. We were told by an inter-ministerial committee that they had no idea how to conduct such a test. In my opinion, there is no budget," Rosenblum says.

According to the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, only 100 places are now available in the 13 shelters located throughout the country, and not all have space for children. Spokesman Hanan Rubin says two new centers have been established for treating abusive husbands. So far, 61 men have received treatment.

Sani says there are cases where the abusers can be counseled and treated. "But about 20 percent cannot stop. They are not willing to be treated, or they cannot be treated."

In the meantime, women like Leah are waiting for solutions.

"I'm waiting for my husband to be sentenced next month, and my only hope is that he will be put in jail," Leah says.

Some ways to curb violent husbands

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset can't bring Jacqueline Assraf back to life. But it might be able to do something to prevent other men, like her husband, from killing their wives.

In Knesset discussions this week, following the first domestic murder this year, the focus moved away from treating the women victims to measures to curb violent husbands.

Thirty-year-old Assraf was shot by her husband in the stairwell of her Kiryat Shmona apartment last Wednesday. At the time of the murder, Gali Assraf, 34, was under a three-month court order banning him from his home and had already served two years in prison for stabbing his wife.

Ways of preventing the murder of battered wives were discussed in the Knesset plenum, the Ministerial Committee on Legislation, the Committee on the Status of Women, and the Labor and Social Affairs, Police, Justice, and Education ministries.

"Until now we have dealt with battered women. It is now time to deal with violent men," Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir told the plenum Wednesday in answer to seven motions on Assraf's murder.

Namir said two centers will be established to treat violent men as an alternative to forcing wom-

en into shelters. Violent men should be forced to undergo treatment as a condition for release from police custody or prison, both Namir and Police Minister Moshe Shahal said.

"There is a hard core of violent men in [our] society and the women are scared to lodge a complaint against them," Namir said. "The system has failed when it comes to battered women. Statistics show that 75 percent of battered women return to their violent husbands because they have nowhere else to go."

Although wife-beating crosses socioeconomic boundaries, most of the women cannot afford legal aid, she added. Namir said forcing the men to undergo treatment would not require legislative changes, and welfare workers who ask the courts for removal orders could similarly ask for the enforced treatment order.

Justice Minister David Liba'i told the ministerial committee Tuesday that it was difficult to arrest or remove men from the home unless criminal charges had been filed. However, in some cases women are too scared to press charges against their husbands, and some women withdrew their complaints through in-

timidation, the ministers noted. Shahal said he was considering legislation which would enable the police to continue investigating even if a complaint was dropped.

"Police are placing the emphasis on letting victims of violence know they are not alone and they can count on police defense as well as deterrence," he said.

"But none of this will be enough unless there is a change in approach, unless men are shown it's not macho but despicable to beat a woman."

At the ministerial committee meeting, State Attorney Dorit Beishatz condemned the lenient verdicts of judges in wife-battering cases. Deputy Attorney General Yehudit Karon called for workshops and courses for judges, and Namir blasted those rabbinical courts which put attempts to maintain domestic peace (*shlom bayit*) above all other considerations.

"The issue is not only violence in the family but violence in general," said Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, adding that his ministry was introducing a new program in schools to promote "tolerance and nonviolence."

"The problem is not legislation but changing attitudes and finding resources to combat the problem," concluded Liba'i.

Labor knights sit around PM's round table

THE WEEK THAT WAS

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

WHAT a surprise for young Avraham Burg. Yitzhak Rabin himself, no less, was beckoning him to join the prime ministerial table in the Knesset cafeteria.

Burg has no reason to assume he's at the top of Rabin's guest list these days. After all, the premier is supporting Burg's rival Yehiel Leket, whom some call the bore of the week, as the Labor nominee for the Jewish Agency chairmanship.

As Burg sidled over to the seat next to the seat of power, he had a further spasm of amazement on recognizing those with whom Rabin was already sipping coffee. Not only were Rabin loyalists Shimon Sheves and Eitan Haber there, but also MKs Dalia Itzik, Sallah Tarif and Shlomo Buhbut.

There were others, too, but all at the round table were young Labor knights who actively favor Burg for the top job in the Jewish Agency. There wasn't a Leket-crony in sight.

Burg's astonishment increased when Rabin casually mentioned that Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the Jewish Agency's board of governors, had been in touch. The world's Jewish leaders were due to meet in New York to decide whether to approve the two candidates, as is their right.

Nu, quoth the Bravest Knight to the Mighty Premier. And what did the big bosses from *hutz la'aretz* have to say about our worthy candidates?

The MKs know only too well that "the bosses from abroad" fear the influence of those well-known "political considerations" when Labor's central committee casts its vote for the agency chairman. It is, after all, a political body, and therefore quite capable of handing the Jewish Agency a politically correct turkey rather than a dynamic administrator.

"Let's just say that we'd be in a much more comfortable situation if Burg were the candidate," Rabin replied. Burg admitted he was touched by the cordiality of the premier's tone.

"It was strange to hear him say it out loud," he said. "I understood that Rabin would not support Leket openly, so as not to lose face when Leket loses. Anyway, his people are now telling me that he's neutral on this."

Whispers have it that Rabin tried to signal Shimon Peres not to root too openly for Burg. Too late. Peres had already babbled his sympathies far and wide.

Wise friends caution Burg not to get too starry-eyed about a little prime ministerial conviviality round a Knesset coffee table.

Wise indeed: Rabin, meanwhile, has been exercising a little more of that oft-hidden charm in nudging ministers and a cabal of central committee members to vote for – guess who?

You've got it – Leket.

THE JEWISH AGENCY IS DOOMED... UNLESS

Other kindly party souls say Rabin is only paying half-hearted lip-service to Leket, while secretly hoping the American Jewish leaders will haul the chestnuts out of the fire for him.

The Americans are "dead scared," these knowledgeable souls murmur, that if Leket is elected, Yossi Beilin will shift into high gear his dreaded plan to shut down the Jewish Agency.

There is no stopping Beilin when he sets his mind on something, the Americans have learned. When he wants peace, he delivers not one, but two Nobel Prizes.

Now that he wants Beit Yisrael – his alternative to the *Sochnut* – it will be bye-bye Jewish Agency. Unless someone stops him.

The only one who can do that, they believe, and also infuse new life and ideology into the dying Jewish Agency, is young Burg.

HOLD THE CHAIRS

THEIR polls may plummet, but if you think the idea that collapsing Labor popularity provides a golden opportunity for a cabinet reshuffle, don't hold your breath.

The word is – musical chairs are out. "crucial decisions" are in. In other words, and contrary to all the advice being poured in his ears, Rabin will not scuttle Shohat, fire Fud, demote Dayan (Eli), or zap Zvili. He will not even borrow Barak for defense.

What he might do is back the idea that an MK who defies coalition discipline be disqualified from running for the next Knesset. (The way things look now, that could be more of an asset than a liability.)

Another thought – or rather, fantasy – party pundits were toying with was that Rabin might prod Peres to don his shining ar-



Burg (above), US Jewish leaders believe, can keep Beilin from shutting down the Jewish Agency; Kahalani insists on Golan Law bill in the face of party discipline. (Inset: Alan Ron/Israel Sun)



mor and come dashing to rescue the party from disintegration.

Peres, who is dying to get on his white horse, is restraining himself, apparently in order to demonstrate loyalty to Rabin and to prevent evil tongues from wagging that he is trying (again!) to undermine the premier.

Meanwhile, the latest party crisis appears to be over, with coalition discipline imposed on errant MK Eli Dayan, who in a fit of socialist emotion insisted on a long school day even if it toppled the government. But before Rabin could breathe a sigh of relief, another crisis loomed, this time from the right.

Labor hawk Avigdor Kahalani has a bill to strengthen the Golan Law, thus throwing a spanner in the works of negotiations with Syria. Kahalani refuses to withdraw the bill, even in the face of party discipline.

WE KNOW IT FROM OUR LOVE AFFAIRS

THE ministers are not the problem, and the solution is not a reshuffle, says Dr. Haim Assa, Labor's strategist in the 1992 elections, former adviser to Rabin, and member of a political think-tank started by Zvili.

The problem is Rabin's inconsistent conduct and the erosion of his credibility. "Once that sets in, once the trust and credibility are gone, there is no getting them back. We know it too well from our love affairs. At least, it would be very difficult to build them up again."

Up to now, Assa suggests, Rabin has been acting like a traffic cop. He makes decisions that swing with the polls.

Take the National Health Insurance Law. The polls indicated that the public supported it, before its numerous faults buried its assets. Now it has become obvious that, first and foremost, it is Rabin's electorate that the health law will make sick.

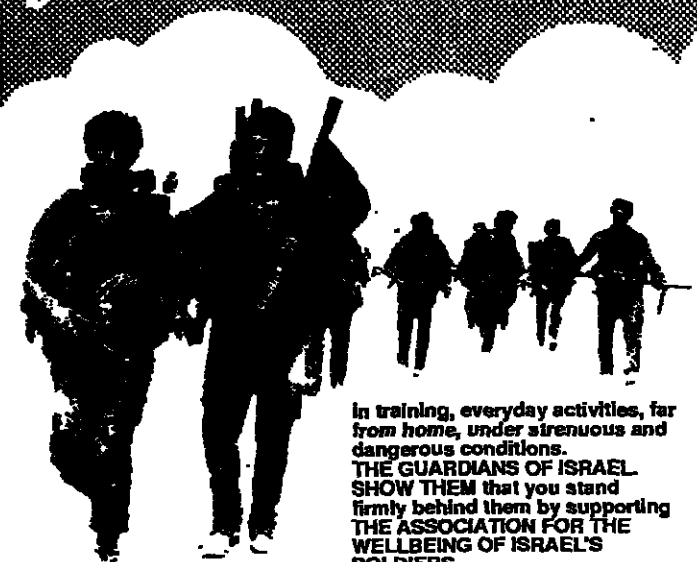
This is the case with every decision the premier makes. Instead of following an ideological line, he is zigzagging, privatizing firms while nationalizing the health system; repudiating a capital gains tax, then imposing one; and so on until he loses even the center he aimed for in the first place.

The results have been so disastrous, says Assa, that if elections were held today, Likud leader Bibi Netanyahu would form the next government.

THE CUCUMBERS AND THE GARDENER

THE internal weakness and crumbling authority, continues Assa, have immediate effects in the party milieu, always quick to smell blood. Thus we see "the cucumbers rising and striking the gardener." Suddenly ministers open their mouths to criticize and announce their candidacy for prime minister, while Rabin doesn't even feel free to shut up a pipsqueak like Eli Dayan.

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Attractive religion

CAPITAL TALK

TEDDY KOLLEK with Amos Kollek

MY first year in Palestine was spent at Hatzar Kinneret, on the lake's southwest shore. As new arrivals in the country we did all sorts of labor in neighboring kibbutzim and Jewish villages until we settled in Ein Gev in 1937.

In the past 25 years, we have rarely had occasion to visit the area. We didn't have time to travel as much as we wanted.

In recent weeks I have been to the Kinneret twice, for a very sad reason. Tamar's nephew, Uri Gadot, a combat pilot and one of the first settlers in Ma'aleh Golan on the Golan Heights, died suddenly at the age of 44 of tragic complications of a medical checkup. His family and many friends were shaken and grief-stricken.

He was buried in the old cemetery of Kvatat Kinneret, where some of the founding fathers of modern Israel — such as Berl Katznelson, and the poetess Rahel — have been laid to eternal rest. It is probably the most beautiful cemetery in Israel, and that thought comes to mind immediately, even at times of great sorrow.

At Uri's request, there was no religious ceremony. The large crowd gathered silently by the open grave as the body was laid inside. Afterwards, some people spoke briefly about their friend and relative who had been taken away so suddenly and unexpectedly.

There were a lot of Air Force pilots, a lot of moshavniks. Some people cried, some people grieved silently. It was a cold, rainy winter day, but most people stayed for a long time, as if refusing to end that final goodbye.

I was struck by how much more powerful that simple funeral was than many religious ceremonies I have attended, with the impersonal participation of burial society staff and the customary prayers read by a rabbi.

I had the same feeling again 30 days later when a small crowd gathered in a hall belonging to Kvatat Kinneret. People spoke about Uri, some of his

letters were read out loud, and some of his favorite songs were sung. Again, no rabbis, no kashrut inspectors, no prayers. But a more Jewish, more Israeli gathering I could not imagine.

On the drive back to Jerusalem through the West Bank, I found myself reflecting, maybe a bit sentimentally, and some of my thoughts were fairly banal: That there is still so much beauty in Israel; that there are so many good, hardworking, patriotic people. That the pioneer spirit is not altogether dead, and so on.

But I also found myself wondering why Israel is given to so much external ceremonial stuff, imposed by the few upon the many, brought over from the Diaspora and so un-Israeli by its very nature.

This applies not just to funerals, but also to brit mila rites, bar mitzvas and weddings. The way the ceremonies are conducted removes the audience from what is taking place, rather than brings it closer.

Religion is probably one of the greatest creations of mankind. It unites people, gives them strength and hope and moral fiber, as long as it does not become abused and abusive — even if this is done by people who initially mean well.

In Israel, especially in national and municipal politics, religion has been walking a dangerous tightrope for a long time. These days in particular, when we see how much harm is done by the extremists of Moslem fundamentalism and by blind obedience to irrational rhetoric and intolerant sermons, we should take time to examine ourselves as well, and separate the beautiful and constructive in Jewish tradition from the obsolete and unnecessary.

If the Orthodox didn't insist on enforcing so many relatively minor but tedious rules and regulations, religion would probably attract rather than repel the majority of our people and serve as a unifying force rather than a bone of contention.

The more things change...

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

A funny thing has happened to Israel on the way to "peace." Instead of being admired and extolled for doing what the world has urged it to do for the past 25 years, it is vilified and despised as never before.

The UN, after a period of relative mellowness which followed the repeal of the "Zionism equals racism" resolution (a move which preceded the Declaration of Principles), is back to its traditional anti-Israel violence. And the media, after initially heaping fulsome praise on Israel's agreement with the PLO, have reverted to the familiar, knee-jerk blame-Israel-first mode. To read press reports on the recent dispute over the Eilat construction project is to recall the most vicious attacks on Yitzhak Shamir and the Likud government.

But worst and most dangerous of all is the tenacious, steady rewriting of Zionist history in textbooks, reference books and educational television programs. Not since the time of the Nazis has such a concerted effort been made to delegitimize Jews and Israel.

Typical of this insidious revisionism is a BBC Television *History File* school program, intended for children aged 14 to 16, called "The Palestinians." Jack Garnel, a Sussex media watcher, has sent me the program's transcript and pointed to some of its more flagrant abuses.

The program's idea of balance is to have two experts on the program: a Jew who vilifies Israel, and an Arab who vilifies the Jew. The Jew is PLO apologist and Peace Now founding member Dr. Yuli Tamir, and the Arab is Dr. Hanan Ashrawi. To keep any possible differences of opinion under control, it features a narrator — Nick Ross — who also vilifies Israel. With this cast of characters, it is hardly surprising that any difference between this program and a PLO propaganda tract is purely coincidental.

What is a little surprising is that the program's producers, having presumably risen above the educational level of pre-Galilean Jesuits, leave unchallenged the most intelligence-offending, mythical statements by that champion of shameless hoaxes, Dr. Hanan

Ashrawi. "Palestinians are a very ancient people with a long tradition. Many of us go back to even pre-Rome and pre-Jewish time to the Canaanite times thousands of years ago. The Palestinians by the seventh century were primarily Moslem, but we also trace ourselves to the early Christian presence as well..."

Surprisingly, Ashrawi does not claim "going back" to the Neanderthals whose caves dot Mount Carmel. But then again the chances of authentic Neanderthals being among the film's audience are slim, while claiming pre-Jewish, pre-Roman, Christian and Moslem ancestry probably guarantees her the empathy of a large majority. And she gets at least one Brownie point for avoiding mention of the Moslem invasions.

And what of the Jewish claim to the land? Poor Tamir tries hard to justify his presence on the program. Does he say that the only people who have lived uninterruptedly in this country for 3,000 years are Jews? Or that in all of history the only nation to designate Jerusalem as its capital has been the Jewish nation; that the Jews' only holy places are in the Land of Israel; that with one exception the Arabs never built an original city in this land; that until three decades ago the Palestinians — considering themselves strictly members of the "great Arab nation" which possesses 21 countries from the Atlantic to the Persian Gulf — refused to be called Palestinians?

Of course not. The Jews, he says succinctly, lived in the Holy Land hundreds of years before Christ, were exiled by the Romans, but kept their religion and their desire "to come back to Israel, especially Jerusalem."

From this felicitous beginning, the program has nowhere to go but into the usual tale of how invading Jews displaced indigenous Palestinians and came to rule them. If no one else, the British should know how sparsely the

country was populated before the Zionist immigration began. The travelers who reported on the area's almost complete desolation in the 19th century were mostly British, and it was after 1920, under the British Mandate, that the vast majority of the Arab population immigrated from neighboring countries.

But this is the PLO version of history, in which facts dare not get in the way. So the 1948 invasion by five Arab armies, whose declared aim was to destroy Israel, is described as an invasion "in defense of Palestinian rights."

And then there is the refugee issue. Tamir, representing the Israeli side, says, "Many Palestinians were deported by the Israelis and many left before the war, being afraid, due to our [sic] propaganda, that when the Israelis will come, they will either harm them or massacre them." To which Ashrawi adds, "The Palestinians were not prepared for war.... Palestinians left as a result of being expelled by the Jewish armed gangs, as a result of a series of massacres, as a result of a policy of intimidation."

To expect a word about Arab atrocities, or that the Arab armies urged Palestinians to leave, or that the Jewish authorities begged them to stay, or that 58 synagogues in Jerusalem were destroyed, is to expect hell to freeze. But it does boggle the mind that a program purporting to be a "history file" fails to mention the 800,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries which this Arab war against the UN partition plan caused.

Needless to say, the Six Day War was one in which "Israel struck first," and as a result of which "Israel more than doubled in size.... Israel gained safer frontiers, but at the expense of others." (One wonders if such programs would ever have the courage to show a map of Israel in relation to the Arab states. Or even in relation to Britain.)

And one can only admire the finesse

with which the program describes the formation of the PLO. "Some Palestinians had organized groups based in Arab countries which carried out guerrilla attacks on Israel. They wanted a return to their homeland and self-rule. The most effective group had been formed with Nasser's backing in 1964. It was the Palestine Liberation Organization, the PLO."

There is no mention of the PLO covenant and its call for the destruction of Israel. Such references may not fit with the innocent Palestinian yearnings for a homeland and self-rule. Even when the narrator does mention terrorism — the only time in the program — it sounds like a harmless, clever maneuver: "[The Palestinians] turned to international terrorism. They hijacked and blew up planes keeping the passengers hostage until Arab prisoners of the Israelis were released. Such actions made world headlines and forced people to remember Palestinian grievances." If anyone viewing this program concludes that the PLO actually harmed, let alone killed, a human being, it is not the BBC's fault. Not one mention is made of the PLO's spectacular mass murders: Munich, Ma'alot, the Savoy Hotel, the bus attacks, various airport massacres, etc. Nothing.

But, needless to say, there is the compulsory canard about Sabra and Shatila, where "Israeli troops stood aside while a Lebanese force massacred Palestinians in their refugee camps." And the Arafat announcement in 1988, "We totally and absolutely renounce all forms of violence," without, of course, mentioning that this was followed by terrorist acts which forced the US to stop the dialogue with the PLO. Even PLO support for Saddam Hussein is smoothly rationalized: Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait.... He also championed the Palestinian cause, which gained him Arafat's support."

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the program is its brazenness. It is, after all, history in almost "real time." It took the Holocaust deniers a few decades to replace facts with the Big Lie. The BBC does it for us instantaneously.

Antieducational education

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

NO sensible Orthodox or right-wing politician even dreams of carrying out a program of national Gleichschaltung (conformation) as was so heavily-handedly tried by the Mapai Party and its Socialist partners, when they dominated the political arena in the pre-state and early state years, and as is again being tried by Mapai's major successor, today's ruling Labor Party, and its Meretz partner.

The National Religious Party's Zevulun Hammer, who held the Education portfolio in the Likud governments, was accused of such attempts. He was taken to task for appointing to key senior posts people close to him personally and/or ideologically, as if he were the first politician of any stripe ever to do so. He was more severely criticized for fostering programs of enrichment in the traditions and history of the Jewish people and Eretz Yisrael before Zionism.

The "damage" he perpetrated has been undergoing repair since, in 1992, his portfolio was taken over by Meretz's Shulamit Aloni and then her party colleague Amnon Rubinstein.

A program Israel has been conducting in the former USSR is summer camps staffed by, among others, IDF women teacher-soldiers. A large percentage of this cadre, who have for many years been serving in Israel in disadvantaged areas and among new olim, are of National Religious background. Last summer Deputy Education Minister Micha Goldman ordered that only non-religious women be sent to the Russian camps. The order was rescinded after it was disclosed by NRP MK Shaul Yabalom.

Goldman has acted again. Among the Jewish schools operating in the former USSR, 14 have teachers whose salaries our Education Ministry subsidizes at least in part. Thirty-four of these teachers were from our State Religious school network. Before the beginning of the current school year, 32 of them were replaced by secularist teachers from the State General network. Goldman justified this move by saying: "We try to concentrate

the studies in the Russian schools mainly on the history of Eretz Yisrael. In order to create and strengthen the affinity of the pupils to Eretz Yisrael, we teach such subjects as '100 Years of Settlement,' which have a direct connection to renaissance Israel. But we haven't stopped teaching Jewish tradition."

He added that "some" of the teachers replaced, "mainly religious teachers from the US, had a greater commitment to New York than to Jerusalem. Today the primary commitment of our teachers is to strengthening the affinity to Jerusalem" (*Ha'aretz*, January 6).

I submit that the best way to foster that commitment is to give those future olim and all Jews the education that moved such builders of "renaissance Israel" as the Biluim; the founders of Petah Tikva and Rehovot; Berl Katznelson, David Ben-Gurion and Ya'acov Hazan.

Jewish tradition was the primary element in that education, not just an afterthought. And it was transmitted by people committed to it, people for whom it was not merely an item in the curriculum but an integral part of their lives.

THE EDUCATION Ministry is not responsible for all books purporting to be educational. It ought, however, to see to its responsibility recommending to teachers and pupils books it considers worthwhile and condemn purportedly educational books that are antieducational.

A book in the latter category has been brought to my attention by Aviva Pincuk of Jerusalem, a teacher and an educator.

Entitled *Handbook for the Oral English Matriculation Examination*, it was written by Ilana Plaut and published by Technod, in 1992. The title page says it "was written according to the latest demands of the Ministry of Education...."

The book should be condemned both because of its con-

tents and because it is written in Divine English — that is, an English that no human speaks.

Here are just a few samples of its egregious style:

- "In the past, the husband was the only one that [should be] 'who' — M.K.] could support the family... and therefore, the unequivocal ['unchallenged' — M.K.] head of the family."
- As a result of the "process of modernization.... People realized that mankind's sexuality was one of the basic needs that had to be fulfilled." And I thought Adam and Eve had already realized that.
- Plaut's sections on women and Orthodox Jews are written not only in disgraceful English, but also in the grossest stereotypical terms. For example:
 - She describes all married women as their husbands' kitchen-and-bedroom slaves. And she writes: "In order not to get the state of anger (on the part of the husband) or frustration (on the part of the wife), they should both reach the inevitable conclusion...." Such writing gets me a state of anger.
 - "If the [Orthodox] boy decides to join the army, he may be pronounced dead by his father, and his relations with the community cut off." This is a crude slander of the thousands of Orthodox — including some haredi — men and women who join the army without being pronounced dead or excommunicated, and of their families and communities who encourage them.
 - "At election time, all Orthodox people are told how to vote in order to strengthen their parties.... The Orthodox are forbidden to read the secular press and they do not care what is happening here...."
 - "Orthodox children never see their parents... show any affection. It is considered normal to quarrel in the presence of the children...."
- Crude stereotypical lie after lie in crude English.
- Pincuk complained to Education Minister Rubinstein. He replied only that Plaut's book is in a category that does not require ministry approval.

BRULIK by DOSH

THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL!

THE TIME poll SQUABBLES IN THE CABINET The future of Jerusalem Russian - Iranian Nuclear Deal

THE PALESTINIAN STATE Hatred of Israel! Zionism on decline STIGMATIZATION OF THE IMMIGRANTS Economy in disarray

IT MUST BE A VERY BIG WALL...

The manna miracle — a gift or a test?

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

"Then said the Lord unto Moses: 'Behold, I will cause bread to rain from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. And it shall come to pass on the sixth day when they prepare that which they bring in, it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.'" (Exodus 16:4-5)

IN what way was the manna a test? After all, the very word "test" generally connotes a difficult challenge, and here the Almighty was literally handing out food on a heavenly platter.

Rashi suggests that along with the manna came self-discipline, since no one could keep leftovers or gather portions on the Sabbath. The Ramban emphasizes the fact that the Jews had to trust God in a place devoid of vegetation or animal life.

But the S'forno and the Or Hachaim Hakadosh look at the fundamental miracle of the manna, the fact that the Jews didn't have to exert themselves to receive or prepare food.

What I believe these commentators are trying to say is that God was revealing His over-arching love for us by providing us with all our needs in the desert. Indeed, the manna is indelibly linked to the Sabbath laws: that a

Jew may move an object on the Sabbath only if the object has been prepared for Sabbath use prior to the Sabbath, as well as the custom of two hallot for each of our Sabbath meals, are each derived from the verse about the manna cited earlier.

And the manna provides the context from which we teach the Sabbath to the next generation. Let me share two stories. The first takes place in the Volozhiner Yeshiva in Lithuania, near the turn of the century. The *rosh yeshiva* was Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Yehuda Berlin, the famed Netziv. When word reached him that one of his students had been caught smoking in public on the Sabbath, the Netziv called the student into his office. When the student refused to apologize, the Netziv instinctively slapped the boy in frustration and disappointment.

The young man, his honor badly shaken, composed a letter forging the Netziv's name. In Czarist Russia such a letter — phrased as a call to revolution — was tantamount to insurrection, a criminal act. The young man had expertly copied the Netziv's

handwriting, and the venerable rabbi was immediately arrested. Presented with the evidence, the Netziv couldn't at first deny the authenticity of the handwriting. But while examining the signature, the Netziv discovered the forger's one mistake. In Hebrew the name Tzvi ends with a yud, and the name Yehuda begins with one. Writing his name out completely meant putting two yuds together, and since this constituted one of God's names, the Netziv's custom was never to sign his complete name. Instead, he would use only one yud for both names, a fact the young forger hadn't realized.

That little yud saved the Netziv's life.

The young forger went to America, where he became a writer, editor and active socialist. No friend of traditional Jewry, he was the main sponsor of the infamous "Yom Kippur dances," and remained an opponent of religious Jewry until his death.

A student of the yeshiva in Radin was caught smoking on the Sabbath. He was about to be expelled when the Hafetz Haim invited him to his house for two minutes. The student not only continued on in the yeshiva, but received rabbinic ordination from the Hafetz Haim himself.

I recounted this incident during a lecture I gave in Miami in 1973. At one point, I noticed an elderly gentleman sitting in the fifth row trembling uncontrollably. When I stopped speaking he ran over to me, grabbed my sleeve, and asked me where I had heard the story. "It happened to me," he said, "55 years ago."

We were both very much moved, but I couldn't help myself: "What did the Sage tell you?"

The retired rabbi got a far-away look in his eyes, and said: "When I committed my transgression, and was all packed to leave, I was shocked to see the Sage standing in front of me. He gently took my hand and asked — using the respectful term for 'you' in Yiddish — 'Will you please come to my house?'"

"As we entered his tiny two-room dwelling, he was still holding my hand. He looked up at me and said only one word: 'Shabbos.' He then saw me out."

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The address of the branch: 11 Akiva St., Netivot
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Fairchild's CEO: Stick it in your ear

Teuza's chairman is considering an investment in the local firm SAAT, producer of an aural thermometer, Rachel Neiman reports

JEFFERY J. Steiner insists upon sticking a thermometer into his visitor's ear. Steiner, a venture capitalist, waits four seconds and finds, of course, the test works. He gets a fast, accurate reading of 37 degrees Centigrade.

The aural thermometer, meant to compete with conventional thermometers which take at least three minutes for an accurate reading, is manufactured by SAAT, one of two potential investments in Israel that Steiner is considering. He is president, chairman of the board and CEO of the Virginia-based Fairchild Corporation, a \$265 million acquisition he completed in 1989. Steiner, who has long had ties with Israel as a member of the board of Haifa University, is looking for investment here as chairman of Teuza - a Fairchild Technology Venture.

Steiner consults on the SAAT investment with Avi Kerbs, who has 30 years' experience in consumer electronics and is president and CEO of Teuza. Steiner also consults with a former brigadier general in the US Air Force, R.H. Johnson, a senior VP of development at Fairchild.

Maybe the thermometer experiment is the playful side of Steiner, who for a time was the highest paid CEO in the Washington DC area, with an annual salary of \$4.6m - a settlement in a 1991 shareholders' suit cut his pay by \$250,000. Steiner, Kerbs and Johnson apparently are impressed by the fledgling SAAT. They decide Teuza will invest up to \$1 million in the fledgling company, in return for a 15% capital share, with an additional \$1m. to be invested by SAAT's other shareholders.

Steiner then makes a statement that sounds like an entrepreneur's dream come true. "Our aim is to take them public in New York. We expect they could have several million dollars in sales for 1995, just from this one product."

SAAT, explains Steiner, meets Teuza's standards by having a technology with significant industrial potential to generate long-term capital gains.

This is what Steiner calls Teuza's innovative concept: "To design products for which R&D is needed, in order to develop products for which we know a market exists."

Guided by these principles since going public in 1992, Teuza together with partners Leumi Investment Bankers (33%)

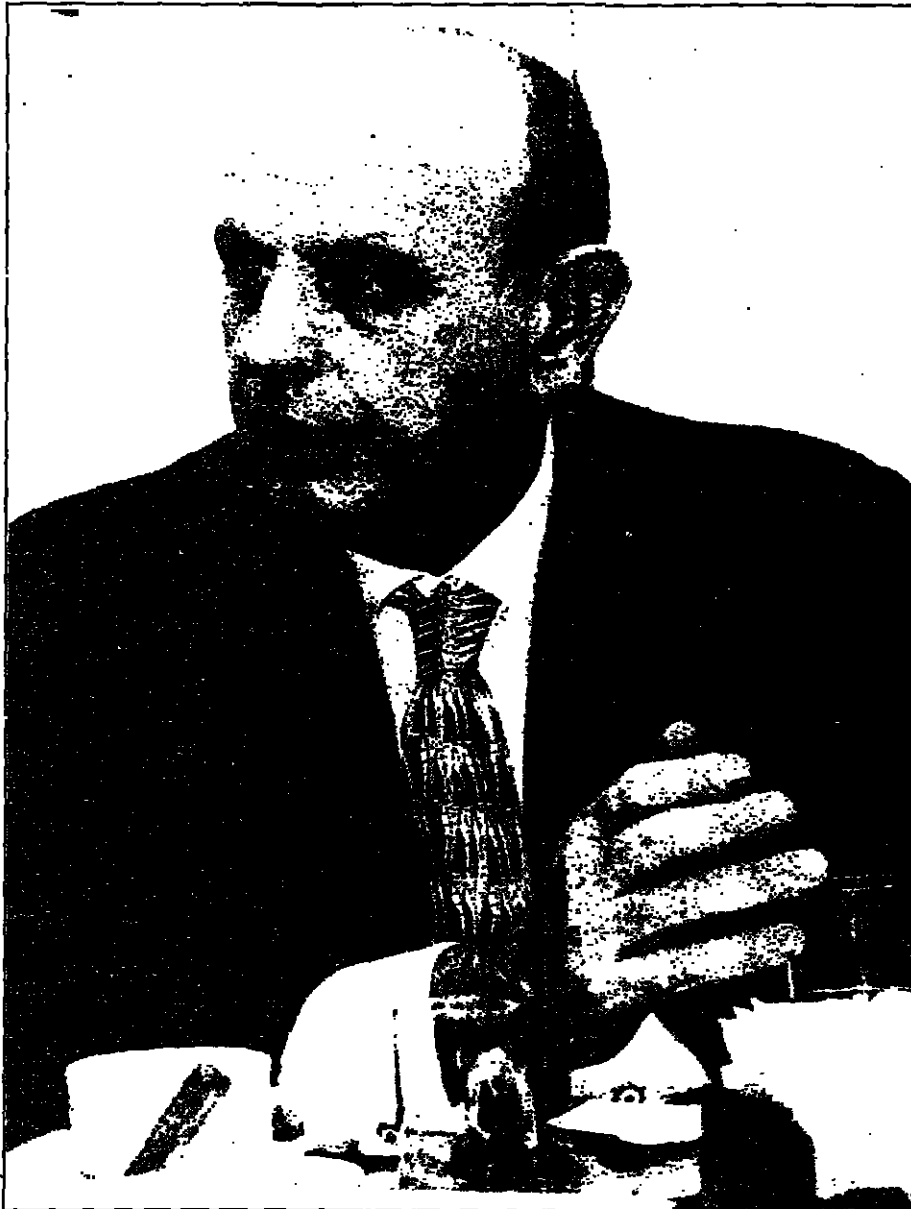
and Nevatim Industrial Promoters (17%), have invested in 12 projects, totaling \$12.1m., and are committed to an additional three.

"All our investments are in areas where either Fairchild or its strategic partners have knowledge of existent markets and their needs," says Steiner. This kind of knowledge, Steiner says means direct access, experience and market presence.

For example, Teuza has invested in a biogenetics company (AB seeds) and its strategic investment partner is a leading Dutch seed distributor. Investment in telecommunications is done "on the basis of our own knowledge of the US market," says Steiner, referring to Fairchild, one of the largest producers of modems for satellite ground stations. Teuza has invested in Israeli start-up Misat, which produces RF terminals, a complementary product for Fairchild's own customers.

Fairchild is made up of five companies, all leaders in their fields: Banner Aerospace, in which Fairchild holds 47%, a distributor of aerospace parts; DME, a manufacturer and supplier of tooling and electronic control systems for plastics injection molding; Fairchild Communications Services, a provider of shared telecommunications services for commercial offices; Fairchild Fastener Group, which makes fastening parts for aerospace industries, and Fairchild Advanced Technologies, a developer and manufacturer of sophisticated equipment for the semiconductor industry. The corporation manufactures in the UK, Russia, Germany, Japan and France and also has small operations and joint ventures in 29 other countries. Steiner, the man who heads all this, was born in Vienna and taken out of Austria the day of the Anschluss. He spent his childhood in Istanbul, completed his schooling and an engineering degree in England and the US and he became a sales trainee at Texas Instruments.

One year later he became export sales manager. His subsequent career jumps, like his biography, took him far afield - CEO of a French company through the '70s and then chairman and major stockholder of CEDEC, along with Total Petroleum and the Paribas Group. In the 1980s Steiner moved from oil to risk arbitrage and in 1985, with Drexel-Burnham-Lambert financing, was able to take over Ban-



Steiner: We design products for which R&D is needed, in order to develop products for which we know a market exists. (Alan Ron/Israel Sun)

ner Industries, later renamed Fairchild.

Fairchild's increased activity in the civilian sector and Steiner's involvement with Haifa University and the Technion, brought his close associate General HR Johnson to Israel, where he has been "fascinated and impressed by the technology capabilities available here, particularly in the research centers."

In 1991 when discussing the concept of Teuza with Avi Kerbs, then at the Technion, Steiner says, both he and Johnson felt that "between the scientific institutes [and] universities, plus the highly trained and qualified Russian scientists, Israel's high-tech market had a tremendous store of know-how." Moreover, Teuza's concept and guidelines, "make scientists think of the market opportunities rather than developing the ideal product."

Teuza's calculated risk is its arrangement with Inbal, the government-owned insurance company. Investors in Teuza are guaranteed an 100% buy-back rate on shares after a period of five years, starting

from the day Teuza completes 75% of its investment, or when \$16.5m. out of \$22m. is spent. As of now, \$12m. has been spent, not including SAAT and a second, unnamed investment.

Inbal does not allow removal of technology but once Teuza is complete Steiner intends to set up a second fund which "will be a public company made up of US, European and Israeli investors and will allow manufacturing outside of Israel."

The triumvirate of Steiner, Kerbs and Johnson rarely convene in Israel but it is not every day that Teuza weighs its possible entry into a new field. Unlike SAAT, Steiner declines to name the second company.

"In this case [it's] not really a company, it's more of an idea, but there is a working model," he says, of an automatic component-inserting machine which, using artificial-vision systems, is capable of producing large numbers of component boards. The machine, says Steiner "has enough unusual features to make it in the marketplace."

Investment fads can cause lots of trouble

YOUR MONEY

NEIL COHEN

FOR Crispin Odey, 1994 was not the best of years.

As the London *Sunday Times* put it: "This time last year Odey could have been forgiven for believing he was one of the City's most successful, if least-known, figures. Little more than a year after setting up his own fund management boutique, the 36-year-old controlled \$900 million in funds under management."

In 1993 Odey personally made more than \$15 million in a mixture of salary, success fees and profits on holdings in his own funds.

But as much as 1993 - in which his funds generated a return of 60%, was a success - 1994 was a catastrophe. In a mere 12 months, Odey lost \$600m., half to investment decisions that went wrong, the other half as investors bailed out of Odey's funds, suspecting that he had lost his magic touch.

During the course of 1994, the value of units in one of Odey's funds, European Income, plummeted from DM 190 to a little over DM 100.

Shed no tears for Odey or his investors. He still has more than \$300 million under management, the fees on which will keep him in pinstripe suits for quite some time. His investors were wealthy individuals and institutions who knew what they were getting into and lost money they could afford to lose.

THE ODEY tale is a salutary one, especially for smaller investors.

What caused money to pour into Odey's coffers was greed. In 1992 and 1993, "hedge" funds, like Odey's, were very "hot," and the better those returns, the more investors queued up to put their money into the funds.

But investments move in cycles, even fashions. One year "growth" stocks (companies with rapid profits growth) are hot; another year "value" stocks (companies whose share price is low

compared to the value of their assets) are in vogue.

This is fine for the pros. But the small investor is usually the one who gets left without a seat when the music stops and the pros are long gone.

Small investors are those most and worst affected by those enemies of successful investing: fear and greed.

When the market is falling (the best time to buy) they are too scared even to think about investing. By the time the market turns, and the smart money is moving in, they are still in a state of uncertainty over whether the market is really recovering.

But then, when they see other people making money in the market, their greed takes over and in they plunge. By this time, though, the market is close to its peak, and as often as not these are the people who bear the brunt of a market meltdown, with few accumulated gains to cushion their losses.

To make things worse, the investment industry sells off past performance. What better advertisement is there than "We were the best performing fund last year"?

But by the time an investment product or market has become hot and the marketing men are pushing it for all it's worth, it's usually time to get out, not in.

After investment guru George Soros moved into gold in 1993, precious metals and gold funds were all the rage. The gold price spiked briefly above \$400, but then slid back and has gone nowhere since.

It is one thing to invest with a money manager who has a proven track record over an extended period (five years plus), and has been through good markets and bad.

It's usually a mistake to follow investment fads, unless you can get off the escalator with the nimbleness of a ballet dancer. Most of us can't.

Next week: Investing for sensible rewards

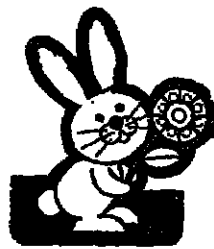
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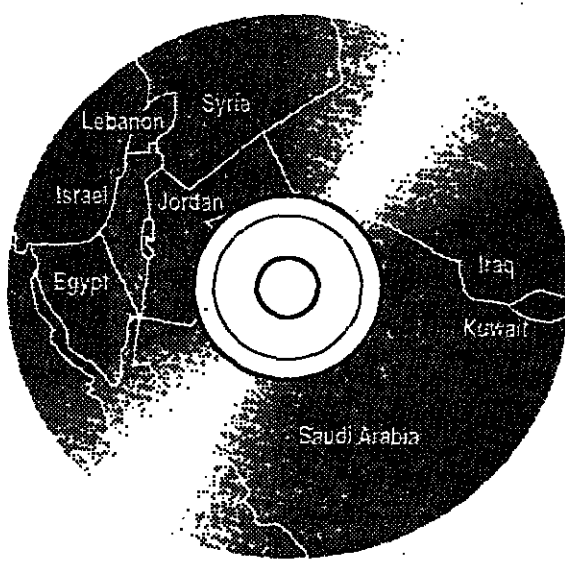


The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair will take place on Tuesday, April 18, at the Metro-West Sports Center in Ra'anana.

If you are a producer of top quality handicrafts and wish to book a stand at the fair, please contact Beverlee Black, Director of The Jerusalem Post Funds, Tel. 02-233986.

All proceeds from the fair will help Israel's needy children, old folks and new immigrants.

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Convention city of the future

The Inter-Continental hotel chain wants to put Tel Aviv on the international-convention trade map, Haim Shapiro writes

THE Inter-Continental hotel chain, hitherto identified with the Arab world, is to manage a giant new hotel in Tel Aviv in the hope of capturing what it sees as a burgeoning convention trade.

John O'Carroll, Inter-Continental regional vice-president for the Mediterranean, says that the company sees Tel Aviv as the gateway to the region.

The chain, which was originally owned by Pan-Am, entered the area with the opening of the Phoenicia Inter-Continental Beirut in 1961. It now has 19 hotels in 17 cities in the area.

O'Carroll says Inter-Continental has market dominance in every part of the Arab world, but he adds the company always believed it would come back to Israel at the right time: "Tel Aviv as a destination is very sought after. The danger is gone and there is a huge pent-up demand."

Until now, he says, Israel has done well in what he calls the "special niche" market - that of religious tourism and those who want to see antiquities - as well as the leisure travel centers of Eilat and the Dead Sea. However, he is interested in the kind of gatherings that will bring 2,000 people to a city at one time.

"A destination won't develop without a hotel infrastructure. To seek visitors [you need] quality accommodation and facilities

available," he says of the convention market.

To catch this market, Inter-Continental is taking over management of the 600-room David Inter-Continental Tel Aviv, to be built by real-estate developer David Taic and due to be completed in March 1998. The hotel will have the country's largest ballroom, with 2,000 sq. m., in addition to another ballroom of 600 sq. m. and a full range of meeting facilities.

Designed by John Graham, who also designed Eilat's Princess Hotel, the David Inter-Continental is to have a vast atrium lobby, going up seven floors with huge trees and tropical plants.

It will, he says, benefit the entire country, with large numbers of visitors touring on pre- and post-convention trips, while the spouses spend their time and money shopping.

"I see Tel Aviv as the gateway of the Middle East, in tourist and commercial terms," he says, predicting that more and more corporations will set up their centers and do business there.

Asked if he, and Inter-Continental as a company, were not concerned about possible unrest or a derailing of the peace process, O'Carroll says that there will be a period of upheaval, but in the end, he predicts, economic interests will drive the political agenda.

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Dictator on board

CHESS

NIGEL DAVIES

GARY Kasparov is the hottest property in chess. He's been the top player for more than a decade and the most active champion ever in organizing the chess world. Claiming to be a standard-bearer of the democratic changes in Eastern Europe, he's brought what he calls "professionalism" into the game.

Yet recently, some dissenting voices - Bobby Fischer, and other respected grandmasters, Boris Spassky, Yasser Seirawan, Jan Timman and Valery Salov - have questioned both Kasparov's motives and ethics.

Spassky characterized Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov thus: "They are two typical Bolsheviks. They strive not only for money, but also for power. As chess players they are both superb, but as human beings..."

Kasparov's most outspoken critic is arguably Salov, who, in an interview with Jules Welling, opined: "He behaves just like a dictator."

Kasparov managed to keep his No. 1 spot only because he had the money and political power to afford the best trainers, Salov said. "If you forget about his opening preparation, Kasparov should be satisfied with a place at the bottom of the world's top 10. A great part of his power is based on his openings, and that is not the result of his own efforts but a whole team of helpers."

Is there any truth in these allegations? Kasparov's results seem less impressive than before, especially when he is faced with new problems in the opening.

The following game was played in round four of the recent Moscow Olympiad.

Topalov, V - Kasparov, G
Sicilian Defense

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc3 e6 7.g4 h6 8.f4?

I don't recall having seen this move before. Here Topalov is able to sidestep his opponent's home preparation. A razor-sharp position soon arises which, according to traditional wisdom, be very much to Kasparov's taste. But it is one his team would not have analyzed in advance.

8... Nc6 9.Bc2 e5 10.Nf5 g6 11.Ng3 exf4 12.Bxf4 Be6 13.Rf1 Rb8 14.B3 Qb6 15.Qd2 Bg7 16.Nf5... Qxb2 then 16.Rb1 Qa3 17.Rxb7 is good for White.

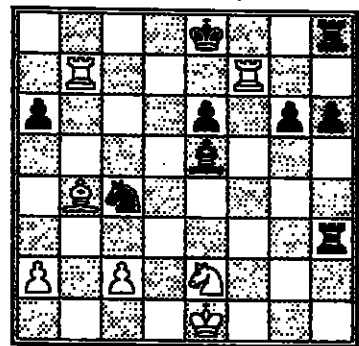
16.Bxb6 Nxb7? 17.Bxb4 Qxb2

18.e5! Nxe5
After 18... Qxa1+ 19.Kf2 Qb2 20.Rb1 Black's queen is trapped.

19.Rb1 Qxc3 20.Qxc3 Rxc3
Kasparov probably saw this far but perhaps misjudged this position. Both kings are stuck in the center, but Black's rook on h8 isn't playing.

21.Rxb6 fxe6 22.Rxb7 Nd4 23.Bxb4 Re3+ 24.Ne2 Be5 25.Rf7 Rxb3

A serious blunder overlooking White's next move. Black may be able to hang on with 25...Bd6, e.g. 26.Bxd6 Nxd6 27.Rb7+ Kd8 28.Red7+ Ke8 29.Rfe7+ Kf8 and now 30.Kf2 Re4 prevents White's knight from joining the attack via either the d4 or f4 squares (see diagram).



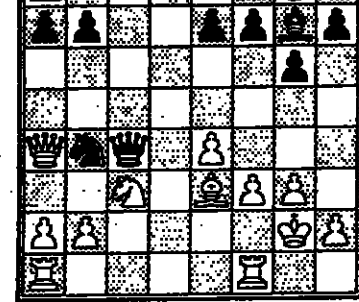
26.Nd4 Re3+
Or 26...Bxd4 27.Rfe7+ Kd8 28.Rb8 mate.

27.Kf1 Re4 28.Rfe7+ Kd8 29.Ne6+ 1-0

Black is mated after 29...Kc8 30.Na7+ Kd8 31.Rb7.

THIS WEEK'S problem is a snappy finish from the game Hamman vs. Brinck-Clausen played in Denmark in 1962.

Black to play and win.



Solution: Black exploited the positioning of White's loose pieces with the elegant 1...Bxc3! 2.bxc3 Nd5! White resigned because he must lose the bishop on e3, after 3.Qxc4 Nxe3+ followed by 4...Nxc4, for example.



A sunbird dips into syrup in a home-made feeder: a test tube attached to a bush. (Werner Braun)

How to tempt a bird

NATURE

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

MANY Westerners are familiar with the custom of providing a table to feed birds in winter. But feeding birds here can be disappointing because, as many people claim, only sparrows are attracted.

Where, they ask, are the robins, the tits, the chats and the wintering warblers?

The answer is simple: They're out there in the gardens, the fields and the hedges, and they are doing so well that they don't need our bird-table offerings.

Winters here are very mild, with even really bad weather followed by sunny and pleasant days. This kind of weather means that insects, a food so vital for many species, are there for the catching; tender green things are sprouting everywhere, and the weather isn't usually severe enough to get rid of all the thistle heads and the grasses that are full of seeds.

For this reason many people feel that providing a bird bath in

summer is better for getting to know the avian residents of the area.

Some people have more luck with their bird-tables than others. Quite a few report a resident bluejay or wintering passerines, but if you want to be sure of some action, feed the sunbirds.

These little birds, the black male with a metallic green sheen on his plumage and his equally swift and tiny mate in her dowdy gray-brown colors, are found in almost every garden, urban, suburban or rural.

Although the sunbirds feed their nestlings in the spring on a variety of insects, they themselves depend on nectar from flowers.

The scarcity of flowers in winter makes feeding them a pleasure. Just take a test tube and

wrap it in red paper, cloth or masking tape or even paint it red. Fill it with a mixture of sugar or honey and water at the consistency of a very light syrup and attach the feeder to a branch on a bush. The sunbirds will find the food as they automatically investigate brightly colored objects.

Werner Braun, a veteran photographer living near Jerusalem, has fed and photographed sunbirds for years. One woman living in Rehovot uses a test tube painted green with a big red plastic cut-out of a flower on top. I attracted them to a balcony in Tiberias with a test tube painted with finger nail lacquer, the only thing I had to hand.

But whether you are providing a bird bath, a feeding table or a sunbird nectar tube, take care to position it where cats can't reach it. Unfortunately some of the best-intentioned bird lovers set up facilities that are actually nothing more than bird death traps.

Dummy as hero

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

North dealer
North-South vulnerable

North
♠ 10964
♥ 692
♦ Q864
♣ K9

West
♠ AO
♥ 10754
♦ A105
♣ J1087

South
(Bruce)
♠ K83
♥ AKQ83
♦ KJ7
♣ AQ

East
♠ J752
♥ J
♦ 932
♣ 65432

Opening lead: ♣J
T

REE-planting may not bear fruit for years. But bridge, being a game of instantaneous gratification, lets players enjoy the fruits of their labor at the end of every deal - if they plan properly.

Danny Kleinman of Los Angeles reports this week's hand, in which he humorously suggests that the hero was the dummy. "First," says Kleinman, "North used good bidding judgment, eschewing four hearts in favor of three notrump. Then he held the nine of hearts (if West had it, three notrump would also fail)."

Perhaps Kleinman does not give credit where credit is due, because all those cards in the right places could hardly be attributed to North, unless he was a card shark and could see the bottoms of the cards as he dealt them. No; realistically, the miraculous layout that permitted declarer to bring home his contract must be attributed to a higher authority.

Miracles are not easy to come by at the bridge table, but, as the Good Book says, we have only to reach out a little and we may get some heavenly assistance. On this deal, declarer did just that.

LET'S PAUSE for a short digression. Readers will no doubt by now have noticed that the heart suit in the North hand is not laid out in the usual descending spot-card order. Don't write in to the

editor, please! The reason for this 6-9-2 is that when declarer was playing the hand, he pictured in his mind the heart suit in this unusual order. We shall soon see why.

The deal occurred last April at the home of Bruce Altshuler, also of Los Angeles. Against his three-notrump contract, the opening lead was the jack of clubs and prospects were bright. If the heart suit divided 3-2, South was due to take five heart tricks, two club tricks and at least two diamond tricks. But on the play of the ace-king of hearts, East showed out and now things looked hopeless.

There was some faint hope of making nine tricks by taking a spade, three hearts, three diamonds and two clubs, but it would require a few miracles. The first miracle declarer needed was clubs to be blocked. This meant that East would have to hold all five small ones. The odds against this were astronomical.

The second miracle would be that the diamond suit divide 3-3. This would bring him up to eight tricks (three hearts, three diamonds and two clubs).

The third miracle would be that East hold the ace of spades, so that the king could be scored. As you can see, only the first two miracles were there, but declarer still found a way to a ninth trick.

After East showed out in hearts, declarer led the king of diamonds. West won the ace and continued clubs. Declarer cashed his diamonds and on the fourth round West was forced to throw one of his club winners. Now declarer led a spade to the king, losing to West's ace. West cashed the queen of spades and his last club, but was on lead at trick 12 with nothing but the 10-7 of hearts.

South was holding the Q-8, so when the seven was returned, he could win both tricks for his contract.

That is, if the nine of hearts were not in the way! If the nine of hearts was still in dummy, declarer would have to win the trick in the North hand and concede the last trick to East.

But Altshuler had planned far into the future. He had unblocked the nine of hearts at trick three, on the second round of hearts, and at trick 12 he was able to enjoy the fruit of his labor when West was employed.

Help: A good four-letter word

THE slogan for our Forsake Me Not Fund, which is designed to help the needy elderly and infirm, comes from the Bible.

In Psalm 71:9 appears the injunction, "Cast me not off in the time of old age; when my strength fades, forsake me not."

Among our senior citizens are Israel's pioneers, the builders of this country. How can we not help ease their burden?

Meanwhile, contributions to all three funds have begun to slow down. Yet every time of year is a good time to make a donation, since we need funds all year round.

Please lend a helping hand. Send your checks today to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits can send their donations to: Friends of the Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

We have started a new book-keeping system, and our campaigns will now run from January through December. Therefore, our money boxes reflect only the donations received the first two weeks in January.

FORSAKE ME NOT

NIS 500 In honor of Simon Wiesenthal's 80th birthday - from his children and grandchildren. Anon., Ra'anana. Dr. P. Glaser, Safed.

NIS 360 In honor of Sonia Shwartzky on her 80th birthday - Tzila and Abraham Chelminsky, Tel Aviv.

NIS 300 In honor of Sonia Dardik of Englewood, NJ - Jonathan and Ziva Putchok, Ra'anana.

NIS 180 In honor of Boris Portnoy, Rehovot.

NIS 150 Anon., Germany. On the occasion of the birth of my first great-grandchild - Ester Shoham, Sde Nehemia.

NIS 120 In memory of Hans - Eva Sinner, Kiryat Tivon.

NIS 108 In loving memory of my mother, Hannah Lando Abrams - Henrietta Ben-Zur, Rishon LeZion.

NIS 100 In honor of Fred Linden's 100th birthday - Dina Cohen, J'm. Chaim Ben-Bicki and Isaac Sudat, Tel Aviv. In honor of

FUNDS

BEVERLEE BLACK

our dear aunt Sonia Shwartzky on her 80th birthday - Nora Igra, Rehovot. Dr. Robert and Hana De Haas, Netanya. Mrs. W. Katz, Ramat Hasharon. The Bridge Ladies, Tel Aviv. Anon., J'm.

NIS 75 Julius and Bella Melman, Netanya.

NIS 54 In loving memory of my darling parents, Mary and Jack Aigengold, and beloved brother, Lou Agar, London - Rena and Moshe Kaplan, Givatayim.

Hinda King, Petah Tikva.

NIS 50 Zaida Portnoy, Haifa.

NIS 20 Anon.

\$500 In memory of Simon and Marie Jaglom - Simon and Marie Jaglom Foundation, New York, NY.

\$400 US Marine Corps, Camp Foster Okinawa Jewish Congregation, Okinawa.

\$180 Robert and Susan Kaplan, Brooklyn, NY.

\$100 In loving memory of my daughter, Naomi and my husband, David - Valerie Adelson, Kensington, CA. Gerald Schwartz, Hartsdale, NY. Anon., Albany, CA. In memory of my beloved sister, Claire, and my beloved brother, Ben - Murray Yaffy, Windsor, Canada.

\$72 Marvin and Claire Greenberg, Mission Viejo, CA.

\$50 Anon., Brooklyn, NY.

\$36 In memory of my beloved parents - Bronia Pichowicz, Rome, Italy. In memory of my mother, Fia Riva - Eugene Goldsmith, Brooklyn, NY.

\$35 In honor of Liban Zucko of San Leandro, CA - Sylvia Warner, Campo, CA.

\$30 In loving memory of my mother, Elise Bornstein Docterman - Gert Docterman, Stone Mountain, GA.

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WELCOMES HOME FUND

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\$50 From the Goldberg family Tzedaka box, Leeds, MA. Robert and Susan Kaplan, Brooklyn, NY.

\$25 Hilda Morgenshtern, Teaneck, NJ.

\$19 In loving memory of my dear sister, Sonia - Bronia Pichowicz, Rome, Italy.

\$10 Connie Whitaker, Springfield, MO.

\$25 Rebecca Danielle and Abigail Rachel Black, Leeds, England.

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

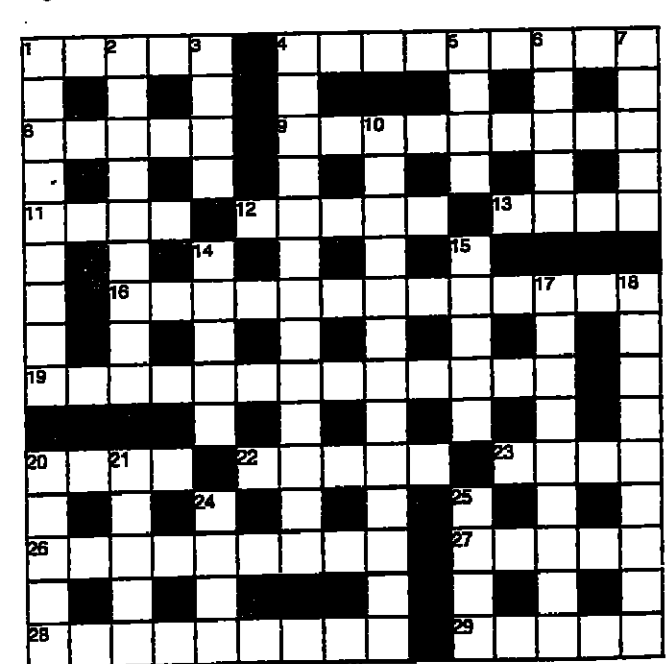
- 1 Contemplated finding employment in Maryland (6)
- 4 Simple disagreement makes him bring a suit (9)
- 8 Relative's note in Riviera resort (5)
- 9 During sale theology graduate clearly got carried away! (9)
- 11 Lard and dripping for Mr. Waller (4)
- 12 A good entertainer needs spirit (5)
- 13 Continue to give support (4)
- 16 Banking institution preparing to move elsewhere (8-5)
- 19 Last drink for a dedicated traveller (3,3,3,4)
- 20 Catch one's breath and talk quietly (4)
- 23 Extraordinarily eager to give consent (6)

23 She joined the Navy as an architect (4)

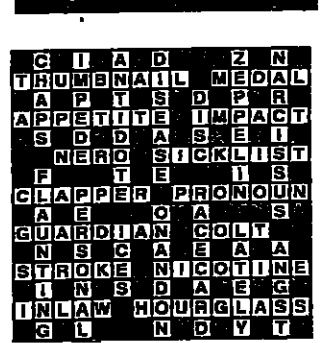
- 26 Keep trying to impale a songbird (5,2,2)
- 27 Henry and I go round small island in the Caribbean (5)
- 28 Extensive alfresco banquet (9)
- 29 A question of position (5)

DOWN

- 1 Party agenda with obvious appeal (9)
- 2 A monochrome offers splendid sight (9)
- 3 "So shines a good" - in a mighty world (Merchant of Venice, Act V) (4)
- 4 Appear unwilling to make money by vigorous sportsmanship (4,4,2,3)
- 5 Arrest results in prison (4)



SOLUTIONS



Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Fleiss, 5 Chips, 8 Brew, 9 Upsilon, 10 Epaul, 11 Extra, 12 Braces, 14 Strawn, 17 Plump, 19 Seizure, 22 Schone, 23 Agla, 24 Salvo, 25 Present.

DOWN: 1 Pable, 2 Stamma, 3 Inlet, 4 Napaea, 5 Clement, 6 Inert, 7 Suzana, 12 Express, 13 Explains, 15 Erudite, 16 Asleep, 18 Ummi, 20 Irat, 21 Elect.

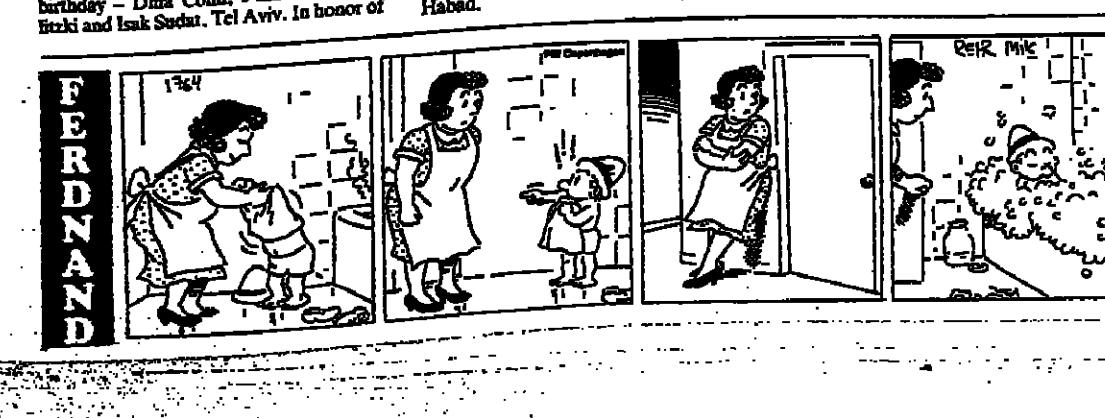
QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 5 Evident (5)
- 8 Talking (8)
- 9 Refuffs (5)
- 10 Beloved sweet (8)
- 11 Infirm (5)
- 14 Japanese Buddhism (3)
- 16 Spanish national dance (6)
- 17 Esoteric (6)
- 18 Aged (3)
- 20 Courteous (5)
- 24 Parasol (8)
- 25 Drive out (5)
- 26 Marital (8)
- 27 God of marriage (5)

DOWN

- 1 Devotional song (5)
- 2 Kingdom (5)
- 3 Coil of yarn (5)
- 4 Nap (6)
- 6 Mildness (8)
- 7 Nitwit (8)
- 12 Pop (8)
- 13 Average (8)
- 14 Menagerie (3)
- 15 Indicate assent (3)
- 19 Bay (6)
- 21 Willow branch (5)
- 22 Gun salute (5)
- 23 South African grassland (5)



South African tourism has cause for good hope

TRAVEL

HAIM SHAPIRO

SOUTH Africa is in this year. The same people who would not dream of visiting a few years ago are now flocking to see not only its natural wonders and impressive game reserves. They want to see what the post-apartheid country led by Nelson Mandela is like.

However, as far as the tourist is concerned, very little has changed. The managers all seem to be white, clerical staff may be colored or Asian, and menial workers black.

During my visit — as the guest of Satour, the South African Tourism Board, in conjunction with Swissair, which provided my flights — I also found that many South Africans feel that an enormous burden has been lifted from their collective conscience.

"The change means that whites feel freer too," said Julie Cleverdon, public relations director of the Sports Cafe in Cape Town, one of a chain of watering holes where sports fans can view a wide selection of events on some 70 TV monitors placed strategically throughout the premises.

The cafe seemed to have an all-white clientele, but Cleverdon insisted that there were black and colored customers. They came less often, she said, because they generally had less money. When a colored couple did come in, she was delighted to be able to point them out.

For the patrons of the Sports Cafe, the change in government has meant a new acceptability in international sporting events. Cleverdon talks with excitement about the world rugby competition, due to be held in South Africa in January. Patrons have already made their reservations to be at the cafe during that event, and it is virtually sold out, she said.

Also welcoming the changed atmosphere was Harry Boettcher, the chief proprietor of the Kaapse Tafel, a small Cape Town restaurant specializing in Cape cuisine. Boettcher, who immigrated to South Africa from Germany a year ago, said he started out by serving German food, but clients insisted on local cooking. So he developed his own unusual menu with the assistance of the Malay mother of one of his waiters.

He too said that he has black clients, but that they come less often because they don't earn as much.

"Sometimes they come and only have soup. That's all right. Why not?" he says.

Although blacks are rare in management positions, they are not altogether absent. Tsepo Lebona, executive director

of the Southern African Tourism and Safari Association, spent several years in Europe studying and acquiring a wide range of European languages before the end of apartheid.

"My friends were angry with me. They said I should stay here and join the struggle, but I told them that what I was doing was just as important," he said.

The only black at a reception tendered by Satour at its headquarters in Pretoria for visiting Israeli journalists, Lebona insisted that he did not feel that he was a token black. He was convinced that Africans would gradually assume managerial positions, but he said this would take time and education.

"I tell the young boys and girls that, if they want a decent job, they have to go to school," he said.

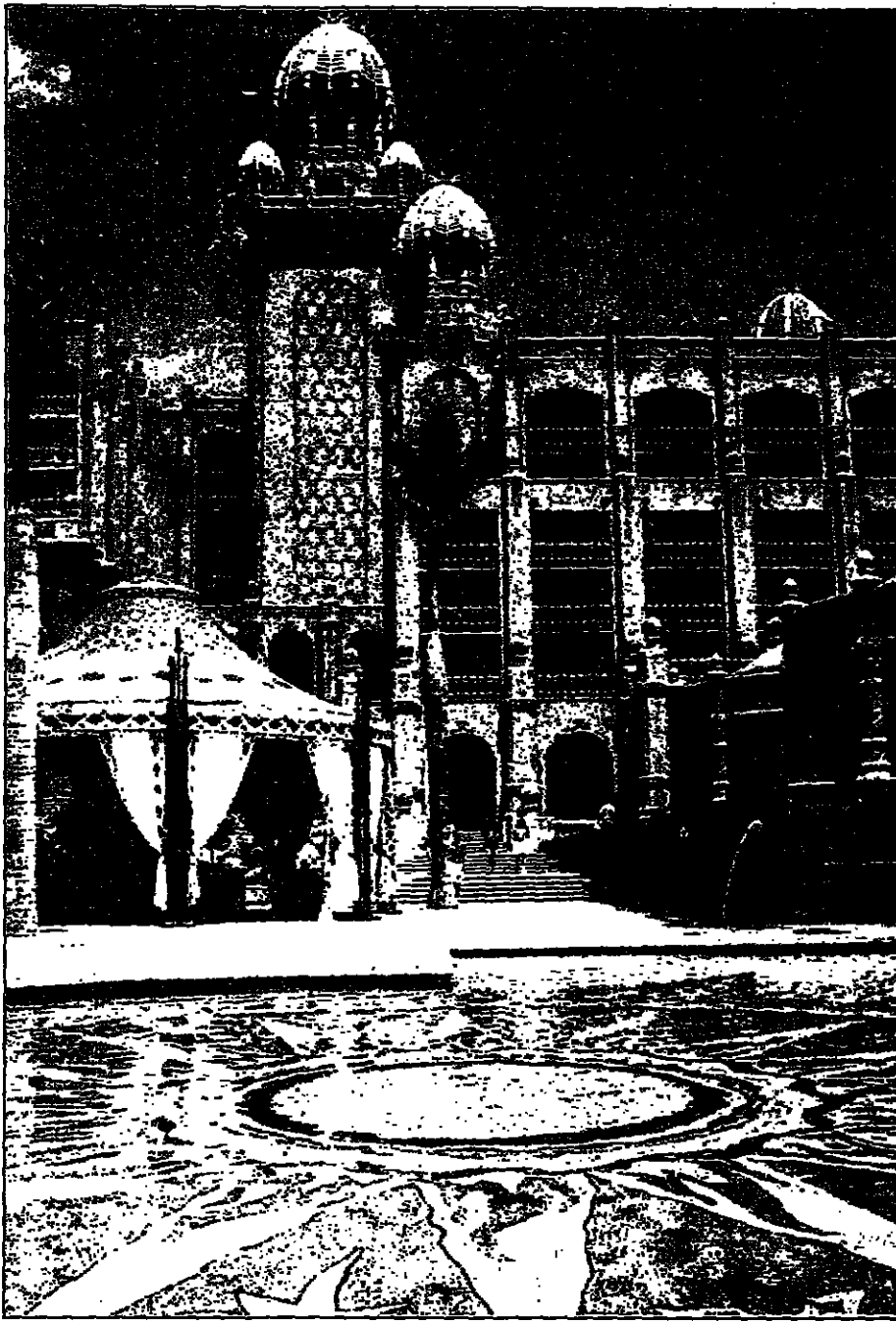
Where the African presence is felt very strongly is in Johannesburg, an hour's drive from Pretoria. In the center of downtown Johannesburg in the shade of gleaming new skyscrapers, thousands of black vendors have set up makeshift stalls. Not a white face was to be seen. Our white guide became jittery and said we would not be safe when some of the journalists suggested getting off the bus.

In the suburbs of Johannesburg, on the other hand, mostly white shoppers and a sprinkling of blacks thronged American-style malls. At a flea market held Sunday on the roof of one such shopping center, stalls at which Africans sold carved wooden masks and soapstone animals stood side by side with those of whites selling homemade jam and Indians selling spices, as buyers of all races mingled without incident.

This scene contrasted sharply with reports in the local South African press giving the impression that the country was beset by violence. In any case, according to Dale Pretorius, Satour's general manager for Europe, the feeling throughout the world was that all the ethnic groups in South Africa were working together, making for an unprecedented upsurge in tourism from abroad.

"You can't find accommodation anywhere," Pretorius said, adding that it was hard to find first-class tourist coaches or airline seats on internal flights.

He said that the market from Great Britain, which had always provided the bulk of South Africa's visitors, was still booming, but there were also new markets. Scandinavians, who had always stayed away for political reasons, were



Super-lodging in Sun City: The Palace of the Lost City is one of the biggest, most luxurious, most garish hotels in the world.

now coming in droves, he said.

In 1992, he said, there were 490,000 overseas visitors, in 1993 630,000, and the expectation for this year was 700,000. He predicted that 1.5 million overseas tourists would arrive in 1995. At the same time, he added, business from Africa itself, which

was not included in these statistics, was also good.

"There has always been a strong awareness of South Africa in the world, but in the past it was a negative awareness," Pretorius said. "Now it is a positive awareness."

High on the flight, and on the hotel

THE ultimate in luxury: imagine the biggest, most luxurious, most garish hotel in the world. Now imagine that hotel as one of the attractions of Disney World. If you've gotten that far, you're getting close to an idea of what it's like to stay at The Palace of the Lost City.

In a 248-dunam (62-acre); man-made jungle, this 338-room never-never land is the jewel of Sun City, a resort center once located in the tribal "homeland" of Bophuthatswana and now a part of the new South Africa. According to the hotel PR people, the hotel was being built at the same time that the first "Indiana Jones" movie, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, was being filmed, but it is hard to believe that there was no cross-fertilization of ideas in these two monuments to escapism.

If you are standing on the bridge when the volcano erupts — the lights flash, the thunder roars and smoke (nontoxic, the brochure assures us) erupts from the crevices in the cement-cast stone — you could indeed be forgiven for believing you were on an old film set.

You could get the same idea in the Valley of Waves, an installation that anywhere else in the world might be known as a wave pool, but which here has lions spitting water to announce the coming of every wave.

You might even think you are in a film if, as I did, you bathe in the monumental, marble-lined tub as the sun goes down and see hundreds of gas-fired torches light up the "jungle" paths.

THE ULTIMATE in travel: Those in the travel business say there are three ways to fly: First Class, working or drunk.

Swissair invited me to try its business-class service on the night flight from Zurich to South Africa, 11 hours to Johannesburg and another three hours on the

new line to Cape Town. Since it was a very long flight, I decided to try the third option. The seats on the long-haul flight are those which the company formerly had in first class: wide, soft and with footrests which support your legs at about 45 degrees.

With all drinks complementary, I started with a pre-takeoff glass of champagne, a small bottle of champagne soon after take-off, a bottle each of a Swiss and a French white wine, a bottle of red wine and, finally, a liqueur.

With my dinner, napkin whisked away, I took off my shoes; donned the little socks, earplugs and sleep mask provided; put the seat back and the footrest up.

I woke briefly when they served breakfast, shortly before the landing in Johannesburg, but I was not really awake until they served the snack on the final leg to Cape Town.

Swissair has daily flights to South Africa via Zurich. The one-way business-class fare is \$1,302.

OTHER WAYS to go: El Al has flights to Johannesburg on Mondays and Thursdays. South African Airways has flights Sundays and Tuesdays. On both airlines, the lowest round-trip tourist class fare is \$999.

Geographical Tours-Neot Hakikar is planning 23-day tours to southern Africa, including Victoria Falls, this spring.

According to deputy manager Yossi Friedman, the price is not yet fixed, but would be \$2,200 to \$2,300, including airfare.

Ophir Tours has a wide range of tours to South Africa, ranging from a 10-day tour for \$930 to a 22-day tour selling at \$2,995, not including airfare.

All the Ophir tours are flexible, and participants have the option of adding elements not included or dropping out of parts which do not interest them. H.S.

Dapper Segev slips into less comfortable attire for Knesset ceremony

GRAPEVINE

GREER FAY CASHMAN

CHANGE OF style. Newly installed Energy Minister Gonen Segev, whose open-necked yuppie sports shirts contributed to his macho image, now seems to be emulating his dapper predecessor in office, Moshe Shaleh. Segev wore a suit and tie when taking his ministerial oath in the Knesset, and was again in sartorial splendor the following day when he formally took over from Shaleh. Segev was wearing his more familiar casual attire when he came to check out his new power base, but donned a suit for the changing of the guard ceremony.

JERUSALEM MAYOR Ehud Olmert, who holds the city's education portfolio, is fostering appreciation for the finer things of life by giving free annual subscriptions to the Israel Museum to every soldier and schoolchild in the capital. Olmert was on hand this week to present a similar gift plus a Picasso poster to the 100,000th visitor to the Picasso exhibition. Keren Golob, seven years old, received free subscriptions on behalf of her family, a gesture which prompted museum director Martin Weyl to



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert to 'Jerusalem Post' Executive Editor David Bar-Ilan: The paper enraged George Bush. (Hanan)

suggest that Olmert might want to extend the same generosity to the 100,000th person paying city taxes.

Reuma Weizman hosted some 50 diplomatic wives at the exhibition and just missed out on being the 100,000th visitor. Sally Rogers, wife of the Australian ambassador, was accompanied by her 16-year-old daughter, Olivia, who plans to study art, and by her first sabra-on-the-way who,

she said, seemed to start kicking because of the excitement. Another art buff was Georgina Otte, wife of the Belgian ambassador, who also puts brush to canvas.

MEETING LATER in the day with *Jerusalem Post* senior staffers, Olmert disclosed how a story in the paper three years earlier had enraged president George Bush. Olmert, who was then health minister, was speaking to

an American Jewish Committee delegation about the suspension of US-backed loan guarantees on the eve of Israel's 1992 elections.

Not realizing that a reporter was present, Olmert charged that the ultimate goal of the Bush administration was to force Israel to withdraw to the pre-1967 boundaries. Olmert also opined that Bush wanted a successful conclusion to the Middle East peace talks before the US elections to compensate for his inability to dispose of Iraq's Saddam Hussein during the Gulf war.

Olmert's comments, and an observation about his close relationship with then premier Yitzhak Shamir, were reported by David Makovsky in a front-page story in the *Post's* February 11, 1992, edition. The story, according to Olmert, was faxed to the White House, after which a Bush aide conveyed the president's displeasure to Shamir, who subsequently told Olmert that Bush was furious.

When former US secretary of state James Baker visited Israel recently, he told the mayor that Bush, under the assumption that Olmert was often doing Shamir's dirty work, carefully examined statements he made about the US.

Flashing a wry smile at Baker, Olmert conceded that he sometimes "volunteered" to make statements without Shamir's authorization.



Segev: Dropped the macho for the occasion. (Elihu)

nostalgic memories to come to the fore at the 20th anniversary commemorative conference of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Aside from headline-capturing former Prisoners of Zion and refuseniks such as Nathan Sharansky, Yosef Begun, Yuli Edelstein and Ida Nudel, movers and shakers who had been involved in the struggle for Soviet Jewry flocked from three continents to the gathering in Jerusalem.

They included people who had been active in Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson's ill-fated cam-

paign for the presidency. Among them were Jackson strategist and later deputy defense secretary Richard Perle and Jerusalem publicist Charley Levine, who was then chairman of Students for Jackson at New York University. Perle was reminded by Levine of their 2 a.m. tangle with Miami police, when on the eve of the crucial 1972 Florida primary vote they were spotted on Lincoln Boulevard replacing George Wallace signs with Jackson banners.

PRIMARIES FEVER? Labor MK Emanuel Zissman, exiting the Jewish Agency complex at the beginning of this week, sprinted along the capital's Rehov Keren Kayemet. But reasons other than upcoming elections may have caused him to run. Zissman's full calendar for the day included participation in the protest demonstration at the Gilo-Bethlehem checkpoint against withdrawal from Bethlehem. A former strongman in the Jerusalem City Council, Zissman said: "I am not a religious person, but I am a Jew, and it is indefensible to hand over a place such as Rachel's Tomb to an alien authority."

TOKEN MALE? Expressing his gratitude to organizers of the Jerusalem Link Dialogue on the Pre/Post Oslo Agreement "for being the only man among such a distinguished group of women," Dr. Mamdouh al-Aker, deputy commissioner-general of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights, elicited an empathetic retort from Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, who told him: "There were so many times that each of us was the only woman..." Also on the platform were MK Tamar Golan representing the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, PICCR commissioner-general Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, Bat Shalom director Dr. Delella Golan, Jerusalem Center for Women director Rada Zughayer, and Dr. Marianne Mar, director of the Dar el-Tilke el-Arabi Pedagogical Center.

HUSBAND-AND-WIFE singing duo Meche and Orna Datz celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in Eilat last weekend. Joining in the festivities was Swedish songstress Carola, whom the couple met and befriended in 1991 when they were competing in the Eurovision song contest. Carola, who was that year's winner, had a seven-point lead over the Israelis, who came third.

Arriving in Israel a month after her victory, Carola was accorded



Rabbi Ariel C. Stone: She stole the show. (Flash 90)

celebrity status and even met with then prime minister Yitzhak Shamir. A Christian Zionist, she has returned on several occasions and has participated in benefit shows for Israel.

RABBI, I love your earrings. The dangling bangles worn by Rabbi Ariel Stone of Orlando, Florida, attracted considerable attention at the Israel Bonds 10th National Rabbinic Conference convened this week in Jerusalem. Stone, and Rabbi Randi Munitzky of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, were the only two female spiritual leaders among some 130 participating Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis from the US, Mexico, Canada and England. For the first time in its history, the conference was chaired by a representative of the Reform movement — Rabbi Haskell Barnett of New York, the former rabbi of Temple Emanuel Long Beach, who at the beginning of this month was voted into the NRC chairmanship by Orthodox, Conservative and Reform colleagues.

JUGGLING FOUR ministerial portfolios keeps Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on his toes, but gets him into more trouble than the exercise is worth. One of his more recent "jugglers" (blunders) derives from favoritism shown by his Religious Affairs Ministry towards Shas-affiliated women's and youth organizations, which received greater financial allocations from the ministry than the National Religious Party-affiliated Emunah, which has a larger membership. The NRP's Shaul Yahalom is calling for Rabin to resign.

Rabin's ministerial burden also includes Defense and Interior

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The Jerusalem Post

BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1995

15

Gov't continues to spoil fiscal policy recipe

COMMENT
NEIL COHEN

THE government's fiscal policy resembles nothing so much as an overambitious recipe going wrong. In an effort to salvage something palatable, the cooks are adding more and more ingredients, but all they are doing is making the mess worse.

The government's starting point—that the health system was underfunded and required restructuring—was correct. The Histadrut was skimming close to 30 percent of Kupat Holim Clalit's dues off the top and many interest groups had struck political deals with the Histadrut which further cut the fund's revenue base. Severing the link between Clalit and the Histadrut was a sound move.

But then the recipe started to go wrong. The government decided to impose a tax on stock market gains after the prime minister had said that it would never do such a thing. Credibility blow No. 1. This was a major psychological blow. And although the idea of the tax is sound and fair, the Treasury's hastily announced plan is ill-conceived and riddled with serious flaws. Credibility blow No. 2.

As the potential electoral damage began to mount, the government began to sweat. There was talk of scrapping the stock market tax, which after an unseemly delay, the prime minister quashed. Credibility blow No. 3.

In December, the government presented a supplementary budget, the first in some years, amounting to some NIS 5 billion, to subsidize the military industries (good money after bad, and generous redundancy packages) and the kibbutzim (which would also be allowed to sell back to the taxpayer land that always belonged to the taxpayer—and had been leased to the farmer).

Shortly afterwards the outgoing director-general of the Finance Ministry, Aharon Fogel, announced that NIS 500 million

should be cut from the budget to finance a reduction in the employers' tax. Somewhat incongruous, this, to add NIS 5b. and cut NIS 500m. Credibility blow No. 4.

Soon people started to wake up to the fact that the health tax, together with higher National Insurance payments, was going to take a mean bite out of their January paycheck and the government's popularity slid still further. Then one Labor MK's revolt nearly prevented the budget from passing. Credibility blow No. 5.

To make things worse, the Histadrut, deprived of its major source of funds—its slice of Kupat Holim dues—wanted money. So the government agreed to let employers levy another portion of employees' wages and hand it over to the Histadrut—whether the employees liked it or not and whether they received any benefit from the Histadrut or not. The impression that the tax burden was getting heavier and heavier was reinforced. Credibility blow No. 6.

Then on Wednesday, in another grand gesture, the government, continuing to insist that it was the party of lower taxes, said it would grant married working women an additional tax credit point, worth about a hundred shekels a month in additional net income. The employers' contribution to health taxes would also be cut.

The cuts were to be financed by another NIS 720 million in cuts in the state budget. Which brings us back to the NIS 5b. supplementary budget. Credibility blow No. 7.

The more the government tinkered with the recipe the worse it tasted. It continues to claim that we are all going to be richer. A poll published last night indicates that 70% of people do not believe it, and feel that the government has lost control of the economy. It is hard to disagree.

Shohat: Bank holding firms are possible

JOSE ROSENFELD

COMMERCIAL banks could restructure to retain their non-banking business holdings, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat told the *Jerusalem Post* in an exclusive interview.

According to the Banking Law, banks have until the end of 1996 to reduce to 25% their holdings in any non-financial company they own. This means that Bank Hapoalim will have to reduce its holdings in Clal, Delek, Ampal and Diur, and Bank Leumi will have to sell over half of its holdings in Africa-Israel by then.

However, Bank Leumi Chairman Moshe Sanbar has proposed to restructure the bank by creating a holding company that would

own both Bank Leumi and Africa-Israel, and thereby avoid the requirement to reduce the bank's non-banking holdings.

Bank of Israel officials oppose creating holding companies as a means to keep control of non-banking businesses, since it does not solve the conflict of interest created by the banks' operations as financial institutions and as business owners—a conflict the new banking law aimed to eliminate.

Asked if he would accept such fiction, Shohat said, "The holding company option is acceptable to me, even though the same

company controls both the bank and its non-financial assets. However, I don't know how the business will work out."

Shohat pointed to IDB as an example of a holding company that owns Bank Discount and its non-banking assets separately.

The Treasury and the Bank of Israel have agreed, in the meantime, to let Bank Leumi make the arrangements to reduce its holdings in Africa-Israel.

"We haven't approved the sale of Africa-Israel shares itself, but we have allowed underwriters to do the preparatory work for

the sale," Shohat said.

Both the Bank of Israel and the Treasury decided last week not to make any changes in the bank and its holdings for three months, so as not to interfere with the sale of the bank's controlling interest. MI Holdings, the government company responsible for the sale of banks, is negotiating the sale of a 20%-40% share of Leumi with a group headed by banker Edmond Safra of Republic Bank of New York.

According to Shohat, meeting the law's requirements will be relatively simple for Leumi, compared with Hapoalim, whose non-banking holdings are not as centralized.

16 to be indicted for huge tax scam

EVELYN GORDON

SIXTEEN leading lawyers and businessmen will be indicted on fraud charges for a tax evasion scam that cost the state millions of dollars, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair said yesterday.

The draft indictment relates to a luxury housing development on Basle Street in Tel Aviv. Among those to be indicted are attorneys Rafael Dinari, Haim Shtrick and Shmuel Barzel, and businessmen Yitzhak Shani, Yosef Diamant, Arye and Mordechai Baranowitz and Gedalya Ben-Ari.

Those involved have been given a hearing by Ben-Yair.

The affair began 10 years ago, when Shani and Diamant bought the plot of land from the Tel Aviv municipality for some \$4 million, according to Israel Radio. The two later contracted with the Baranowitz group to do the building.

However, according to the draft indictment, those involved then

conspired to inflate expenses and hide profits to evade taxes.

The main scam involved a deal whereby Baranowitz bought the land from Shani and Diamant in exchange for 11 apartments and four penthouses in the completed project. To obscure the real value of the swap, however, it was represented to the tax authorities as two separate deals: The sale of the land for a very low price, and a non-related purchase of the apartments, also for a low price.

The apartments were sold for \$80,000 to \$90,000 apiece, according to *Globes*, while their real value was some \$250,000 each.

About four years ago, Israel Radio noted, some of the participants in the affair were arrested, and raised a great outcry about persecution by the tax authorities.

However, the subsequent probe convinced Ben-Yair the "persecution" was based on solid fact.

Admiral expects to buy Shipyards

HAIM SHAPIRO



Kessar, along with Finance Minister Shohat, rejected Admiral's bid. (Brian Headler)

The Admiral group still expects to acquire the Israel Shipyards, even though Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat rejected its bid, one of the American investors in the group said yesterday.

Marvin Nieman revealed that he and the two other American partners had been asked by the Government Companies Authority to come to Israel last week for a special meeting, only to be told that the meeting was canceled after they had left the US.

The group, which bid \$9.35 million, in addition to covering the shipyard's debts, includes three Israeli and three American investors.

The investors, he added, were not told that their bid had been rejected. They only learned of the Kessar-Shohat statement indirectly. In fact, he added, the group has never been informed officially that its bid has been rejected.

On Monday, the Interministerial Committee on Privatization is

to consider the Admiral bid. Nieman said that to the best of his knowledge, the group is to be told officially on Tuesday whether its bid was accepted.

He added that he had been encouraged by the atmosphere at the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee, which discussed the matter on Wednesday.

Nieman said the group had considered the shipyard as the first of several projects which it had hoped to undertake. It intends, he said, to invest in machinery, turn the company around, and then seek backing on the New York or Tel Aviv stock market.

Nieman, an attorney, said the group had hired legal counsel and intends to enforce its rights as the successful bidder. He said that despite the difficulties with the shipyard, the group is interested in acquiring other Israeli corporations which are to be privatized.

"We will be much smarter on the second project," he said.

Mizrahi hopes to recover bad Swiss loan

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

UNITED MIZRAHI BANK is hopeful of recovering at least some of the money lost on a bad loan by its Swiss operation, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

According to a report in *Ma'ariv* yesterday, United Mizrahi Bank (Switzerland) general manager Dr. Alfred Norman quit, evidently under considerable pressure, following an unsuccessful credit transaction which may cause the bank losses of about Sfr 4 million.

Mizrahi sources confirmed that

Norman granted credit to one of the bank's customers against a letter of credit from a foreign bank. But when it was time to repay the credit, the foreign bank refused to respect the letter of credit, which is usually considered an adequate security.

A senior banker with another bank specializing in international risk management expressed considerable surprise at the episode.

"It is very unusual to lose money in such a routine transaction if a bank does its homework correctly," he said.

It is believed, however, that the bad loan was not the only reason for Norman's departure.

Following the incident, UMB sent deputy general manager David Olmer to Switzerland to investigate what had happened. Olmer has previously served as head of UMB's credit and non-banking divisions.

Olmer was unavailable for comment yesterday.

UMB holds 100% of UMB Overseas Holding Company, which controls UMB Switzerland. The company is mainly engaged in private banking. The bank completed the first nine months of 1994 with a net profit of Sfr 782,000, down from Sfr 1.2m. earned in the same period the previous year. At the end of September, the bank's balance sheet totaled Sfr 69.6m.

Provident funds of leading banks have negative yields

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ALL three largest banks' provident funds achieved negative real yields in 1994 ranging from negative 2.6 percent to negative 22.6%.

Bank Hapoalim's Gadish, the largest fund in the nation, achieved a cumulative negative real yield of 8.8% last year. Bank Leumi's Ozma reported a real negative yield of 6.47% and Bank Discount's Tamar reported a real negative yield of 8.9% in 1994.

The complete figures are as follows (all figures are cumulative real yields):

Bank Hapoalim's Gadish: -8.8%; Keren Or: -9.9%; Katzir:

-8.9%; Recundancy Compensation: -8.9%; Teutza: -22.6%.

Bank Leumi's Ozma: -6.47%; Zion: -7.59%; Tzur: -7.02%; Rimmon: -13.43%; Ya'ad: -10.26%; Rakia: -19.6%; Taaz: -6.79%; Sagi: -3.37%; Keshet: -6.3%; K.M.P.: -6.86%; Signon Shares: -21.84; Signon Index: -8.06; Signon Foreign Currency: -12.95; Signon Shekels: -2.63%.

Bank Discount's Tamar: -8.9%; Gefen: -8.9%; Shikma: -13.6%; Pitzum: -7.8%.

First International Bank and United Mizrahi Bank have not yet published their provident funds yields.

Ex-Clal official files slander suit against current director

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

FORMER Clal deputy managing director Amir Ronen filed a slander suit in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday against Clal managing director David Weinsal.

The suit is linked to a suit for compensation Ronen filed in the Tel Aviv Labor Court two weeks ago. In that suit, Ronen is seeking compensation for what he says was unjust dismissal, after he exposed corruption in the company. According to the suit, Clal's senior officials covered up cor-

rupt activities in Clal International, a brokerage firm.

In yesterday's suit, Ronen accuses Weinsal of slandering in press interviews shortly after news of the compensation suit was published. According to the suit, Weinsal told the press that Ronen is a liar and that information included in the compensation claim is a lie.

Ronen claims he asked Weinsal to apologize but the manager did not respond to his request.

Elco gets IEC transformer contract

ELCO yesterday won an Israel Electric Corporation contract to supply 39 large transformers valued at about \$34 million.

Elco will supply the transformers to IEC's sub-power stations.

There were six bidders, including companies from Germany, Switzerland, France, and Belgium.

IEC chairman Adi Amorai said Elco's proposal was 20 percent cheaper than the other bids.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

ECI Telecom's wholly-owned US subsidiaries yesterday announced plans to purchase up to two million of the parent company's shares, for investment purposes.

ECI Telecom announced ECI Telecom (US) and Telematics International have adopted share purchase programs under which they will occasionally purchase ordinary shares of the parent company.

Committee delays ICL sale: The Knesset Finance Committee once again delayed a final decision on the sale of Israel Chemicals yesterday, deciding it must first hear the government's opinion on the passage of several laws important to the company.

Arab Bank attracts \$143m. in deposits: Jordan's leading bank, Arab Bank, has attracted 100 million dinars (\$143.06 million) in deposits at its new branches in Judea, Samaria and the autonomous section of the Gaza Strip, a senior bank official said yesterday. *Reuters*

Bank savings programs attracted 24% fewer deposits last month than in November, the Treasury reported yesterday.

As inflation soared in the past few months, index-linked programs continued accumulating deposits, bringing in NIS 567.46 million in December. By contrast, a falling dollar resulted in steady withdrawals throughout most of the year from foreign currency-linked savings.

Last month, foreign-currency-linked savings fell NIS 168.23m. Last year, all the savings programs attracted NIS 3.13 billion.

WORLD BRIEF

Saatchi & Saatchi shares collapse: Shares in Saatchi & Saatchi, worth more than 50 pounds (\$78) each in their heyday, collapsed to their lowest-ever level yesterday as disgruntled clients said they were ending contracts with the strife-torn advertiser. Saatchi shares plunged 14 pence, or 13 percent, to a low of 93.5 in panicky morning business, but later stabilized to hover around 98 pence.

That was 45% lower than the 178 pence hit just after Saatchi reported good first-half results in August, and industry analysts were beginning to be impatient with the fall.

"It's really important to keep things in perspective," said one, who asked not to be named. "You have to ask yourself: 'Have the shares fallen too far?' I think the answer's yes." *Reuters*

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (13.1.95)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.500	6.125	6.875
U.S. dollar (\$500,000)	5.500	6.125	6.875
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.875	5.375	6.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.000	4.250	4.750
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.875	3.125	3.500
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.750	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (12.1.95)

CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates*
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.3380	3.3250	3.3250	3.3662	3.3662
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	2.8881	3.0302	2.93	3.07	3.0180
German mark	1.9405	1.9678	1.90	1.99	1.9607
Pound sterling	4.6935	4.7292	4.58	4.78	4.7039
French franc	0.5520	0.5658	0.54	0.58	0.5677
Japanese yen (100)	2.5511	2.5824	2.54	2.59	2.5730
Dutch florin	1.7332	1.7577	1.70	1.78	1.7483
Swiss franc	2.3151	2.3477	2.27	2.38	2.3566
Swedish krona	0.3388	0.3445	0.33	0.34	0.3402
Norwegian krona	0.4431	0.4494	0.43	0.46	0.4473
Danish krone	0.4930	0.5000	0.48	0.51	0.4874
Finnish mark	0.6253	0.6382	0.62	0.65	0.6300
Canadian dollar	2.1088	2.1388	2.07	2.17	2.1238
Australian dollar	2.2978	2.3302	2.25	2.37	2.3201
S. African rand	0.9462	0.9591	0.74	0.86	0.8540
Belgian franc (10)	0.9453	0.9593	0.93	0.97	0.9514
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7829	2.7888	2.71	2.84	2.7861
Italian lira (1000)	1.8411	1.8670	1.80	1.90	1.8933
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.18	4.43	4.2827
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.85	0.90	0.8500
Irish punt	3.5788	3.7284	—	—	3.7101
Irish punt (100)	4.6088	4.8717	4.50	4.78	4.6517
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2388	2.2881	2.17	2.32	2.2551

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

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WORLD MARKET REPORTS

- The US Federal Reserve is predicted to raise rates by 25-50bps shortly. This has been discounted, but 75bps is considered necessary to put the Fed firmly "ahead of the curve". There are risks attached to an aggressive stance, and the Mexican crisis has added uncertainty. The Fed may be discouraged from aggressive action by the possible effect on Latin American financial markets - the light to quality that became panicky on Tuesday could be intensified. The US T-bond market is enjoying settled panicky on Tuesday could be intensified. The US T-bond market is enjoying settled panicky on Tuesday could be intensified.
- The light to quality is supporting DM assets, as investors move to low volatility currencies. The mark is also benefiting from the belief that DM interest rates will be cut. The mark is also benefiting from the belief that DM interest rates will be cut.
- The UK FT-SE 100 index lacks the momentum to advance from the 3040 support level, though it is trying to break a descending down-trend line, in place since August. The Hong Kong market has also been hit by the Sino-US dispute over intellectual property rights and political uncertainty on the mainland with Deng Xiaoping reportedly back in hospital. While the underlying regional economic fundamentals do not justify the current bearishness, it is not wise to play the contrarian (yet) against the fall to 3711.25oz, but is expected to be capped at 377.50 - 378.00. The \$375 support level is relaxed, though weakened by being broken once. There was physical demand at the lower levels, and the Mexican turmoil helps. However, the rallies are largely based on short covering, and the bull remains in a down-trend.
- South African gold shares derived strength from the recovery in bullion, but are hampered by the concern over emerging markets.

Any information contained herein should not be construed in any way as a public offering.

Key Representative Rates

US dollar ... NIS 3.0160	+0.10%
Sterling NIS 4.7039	-0.10%
Mark NIS 1.9607	-0.05%

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

	Last	Change
DJ Industrial	5828.4	+6.4
DJ Transport	1618.4	+11.8
DJ Utility	2281.4	+2.8
DJ Composite	2881.4	+1.8
NYSE Index	2147.3	+0.17
NYSE Transp	2410.0	+0.33
NYSE Util	251.2	+0.48
NYSE Comp	251.2	+0.48
S&P 500 Index	491.28	+0.08
NYSE Comp	491.28	+0.08

Unchanged Advances Declines

Advances	1074
Declines	1074
Unchanged	1074

Other stock market indexes

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3040.0	+16.2
London All Share	3040.0	+16.2
Singapore All Share	311.0	+11.22
Hang Kong Hang Seng	7410.0	+55.3
Tel Aviv	1112.0	-1.12

Israeli stocks in NY

	Last	Change
NYSE / AMEX		
Amir	47.5	0
Amir A	1.0	-0.125
Amir B	1.0	-0.125
Amir C	1.0	-0.125
Amir D	1.0	-0.125
Amir E	1.0	-0.125
Amir F	1.0	-0.125
Amir G	1.0	-0.125
Amir H	1.0	-0.125
Amir I	1.0	-0.125
Amir J	1.0	-0.125
Amir K	1.0	-0.125
Amir L	1.0	-0.125
Amir M	1.0	-0.125
Amir N	1.0	-0.125
Amir O	1.0	-0.125
Amir P	1.0	-0.125
Amir Q	1.0	-0.125
Amir R	1.0	-0.125
Amir S	1.0	-0.125
Amir T	1.0	-0.125
Amir U	1.0	-0.125
Amir V	1.0	-0.125
Amir W	1.0	-0.125
Amir X	1.0	-0.125
Amir Y	1.0	-0.125
Amir Z	1.0	-0.125

NASDAQ / over-the-counter

	Last	Change
Amir	47.5	0
Amir A	1.0	-0.125
Amir B	1.0	-0.125
Amir C	1.0	-0.125
Amir D	1.0	-0.125
Amir E	1.0	-0.125
Amir F	1.0	-0.125
Amir G	1.0	-0.125
Amir H	1.0	-0.125
Amir I	1.0	-0.125
Amir J	1.0	-0.125
Amir K	1.0	-0.125
Amir L	1.0	-0.125
Amir M	1.0	-0.125
Amir N	1.0	-0.125
Amir O	1.0	-0.125
Amir P	1.0	-0.125
Amir Q	1.0	-0.125
Amir R	1.0	-0.125
Amir S	1.0	-0.125
Amir T	1.0	-0.125
Amir U	1.0	-0.125
Amir V	1.0	-0.125
Amir W	1.0	-0.125
Amir X	1.0	-0.125
Amir Y	1.0	-0.125
Amir Z	1.0	-0.125

(All listings are closing quotes)

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NEW MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

	Last	Change
Point	1.5736	+1.177
Amir	1.5736	+1.177
Amir A	1.5736	+1.177
Amir B	1.5736	+1.177
Amir C	1.5736	+1.177
Amir D	1.5736	+1.177
Amir E	1.5736	+1.177
Amir F	1.5736	+1.177
Amir G	1.5736	+1.177
Amir H	1.5736	+1.177
Amir I	1.5736	+1.177
Amir J	1.5736	+1.177
Amir K	1.5736	+1.177
Amir L	1.5736	+1.177
Amir M	1.5736	+1.177
Amir N	1.5736	+1.177
Amir O	1.5736	+1.177
Amir P	1.5736	+1.177
Amir Q	1.5736	+1.177
Amir R	1.5736	+1.177
Amir S	1.5736	+1.177
Amir T	1.5736	+1.177
Amir U	1.5736	+1.177
Amir V	1.5736	+1.177
Amir W	1.5736	+1.177
Amir X	1.5736	+1.177
Amir Y	1.5736	+1.177
Amir Z	1.5736	+1.177

Libor rates

		Last	Change
Dollar	3 months	0.26	-0.0025
Dollar	6 months	0.76	0
Dollar	12 months	7.3	-0.125
Swedish	6 months	6.975	-0.0025
Swedish	12 months	6.975	-0.0025
Swedish	12 months	7.9575	0
S-tranc	6 months	4.3175	-0.0025
S-tranc	12 months	4.6875	0
S-tranc	12 months	4.6875	-0.0025
D-mark	3 months	5.0825	0
D-mark	6 months	6.7175	0
D-mark	12 months	8.2625	-0.0025
Yen	3 months	2.375	0
Yen	6 months	2.4375	0
Yen	12 months	2.625	0

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NETANYAHU

(Continued from Page 2)

"I know it is not popular to come out in defense of the parties, but they do serve a vital purpose," he continued. "The primaries will result in preference for narrow local interests over the national good."

In 1996 Netanyahu will be prime minister," he declared, "and he will govern under very adverse conditions in the aftermath of the Oslo Accords, international pressure and economic recession. He will need a strong

and loyal party to back him. The primaries will leave him with an assortment of MKs who dance to their own tunes, without a semblance of party discipline."

Begin added that the primary system "gives unfair advantage to the rich and to incumbent MKs. The debate is whether one needs a million dollars to get elected or just a million shekels. The ties which the primaries will enhance will be those of the politicians to sponsoring tycoons."

JENIN

(Continued from Page 2)

brought only those who live in Jenin to Jenin Prison," said Mohammed Said, who visited his cousin there yesterday. He noted that the prisoners brought to Jenin had only a short time to serve.

"There is no connection between removing roadblocks, transferring prisoners and redeployment," a security source said. "It is a case of wishful thinking, inspired by reports that Jenin will be the next town to be evacuated by the IDF. Roadblocks are frequently moved, according to security considerations. Prisoners are frequently transferred, especially now because of growing agitation in prisons."

Local observers remain unconvinced. "Why now and all at the same time?" they ask.

BEILIN

(Continued from Page 2)

Labor's poor performance in the polls, can in fact be used to advantage in speeding the peace process, Beilin said.

"We can put it bluntly to the other side that time may be running out, and that we are functioning in a democratic system which means that we may not be in power for very much longer."

"The other side must seize the opportunity now and deal with us. If it thinks that those who will replace us in government will be more amenable to them and will make them better offers, then let them wait."

REDEPLOY

(Continued from Page 2)

Officials, however, said Israel is not required to redeploy from all such areas for security reasons. According to the third section of Article 13, "Further redeployments to specified locations will be gradually implemented, commensurate with the assumption of responsibility for public order and internal security by the Palestinian police force."

In the last few years, moreover, the IDF presence in many Palestinian villages has dropped considerably, and in a good number of villages there is simply no Israeli presence at all.

BUDGET

(Continued from Page 1)

affect teaching hours in the schools.

The Defense Ministry will suffer a NIS 85m. reduction, made up of a NIS 60m. cut in wages and manpower, NIS 10m. in the Home Front Command, and NIS 15m. in unspecified reductions.

The Treasury also plans to amend the Demobilized Soldiers Law and cancel the rent subsidy demobilized soldiers receive, a move which is expected to save NIS 80m.

The Labor and Social Affairs Ministry budget will be slashed by NIS 48m. Most of the cut will be in vocational training, which will be reduced by NIS 30m. Given the relatively low levels of unemployment, the Treasury will also take away NIS 10m. from public works job programs.

A NIS 10m. cut to the senior citizen housing rehabilitation program, out of the NIS 34m. Housing Ministry budget reduction, drew the ire of Meretz ministers. Environment Minister Sarid blasted the proposal for such cuts, as well as the NIS 30m. reduction to the absorption budget.

Shohat will present his proposal at Sunday's cabinet meeting, where he is expected to encounter resistance from Meretz ministers, who are steaming at the fact that they were not consulted before the package was announced.

Industry and Trade Minister Harish came out yesterday in support of the Treasury's proposal and said he hopes economic growth will make up for the cuts. He added that he would wait until the cabinet meeting to decide whether he would support the NIS 20m. cut to his budget.

A senior Defense Ministry official said the proposed cut in the defense budget is something the ministry is unhappy about, but can live with.

The source said any cut damages the country's defense, but noted that the IDF recently received 50 F-16 jets, 24 Blackhawk helicopters, and several dozen Apache attack helicopters virtually free of charge, from US surplus.

BUDGET

"The total value of the aircraft package is close to \$900m; by 1996 we will begin receiving the two Dolphin-class submarines from Germany, almost entirely financed by the Germans," the source said. "So there is no point protesting a cut of NIS 85m., especially when the man who ordered it is also the defense minister."

The 1994 defense budget was NIS 20.24 billion, of which 67% is in local currency. 30% represents the annual US military grant (\$1.8 billion, of which \$475m. is convertible to shekels, while the rest must be spent in the US) and 3% is cash in foreign currency for daily operations.

The defense budget constitutes 11.2% of the Gross Domestic Product (in 1992 terms), down from a record high of 30% in 1976. Local expenditures make up 8% of the 11.2%.

For 1995, the Defense Ministry demanded an increase of NIS 500m. and \$50 million more in cash, plus increases of NIS 250 million in both 1996 and 1997.

In the original budget for this year, the compromise reached between the Defense Ministry and the Treasury totaled half that sum, which will now be lowered by the proposed additional cut.

Shohat's economic package failed to match the drama that preceded its announcement, including the highly publicized meeting that took place two weeks ago in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office. At that meeting, which included business leaders, the Histadrut, and government officials, the sides agreed to take steps to urgently deal with the problem of inflation and export profitability.

BUDGET

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Labor panel wants to replace leaders of Histadrut faction

LABOR'S political bureau yesterday accepted the recommendations of a Labor committee to replace the leaders of what the committee termed its non-functioning Histadrut faction.

Labor Histadrut faction chairman Haim Haberfeld yesterday accepted the report by the committee, headed by Police Minister Moshe Shahal, but said he does not intend to resign. However, party sources said that in private conversations, Haberfeld expressed a willingness to consider resigning, in exchange for another position.

Shahal, who spoke at a press conference earlier yesterday, said that Labor's Histadrut faction is completely non-functional, both due to personnel problems and the lack of a defined policy.

As for the future of the coalition with Ram, Shahal blasted Ram's conduct, recommending that unless real partnership can be established, Labor should quit the Histadrut coalition.

The report criticizes Labor for

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

failing to support its Histadrut faction, despite holding the premiership and all the important economic ministries. Instead, party leaders and ministers ignore the faction and refuse to back it, while they support Ram's positions.

The committee's report paints a grim picture of the Histadrut faction's predicament. Its members "are subject to alienation and neglect on the part of their own party leaders, and on the other hand, are treated with contempt and hostility by their 'partners' in the Histadrut coalition — the Ram faction."

The report points out that "an absurd situation in which three MKs who are members of Labor's Knesset Faction — Haim Ramon, Amir Peretz, and Shmuel Avital — dictate Ram's decisions to Labor's Histadrut faction." Ram dictates its orders as facts accomplish to Labor, which is expected to be a rubber stamp for

all the decisions, states the report.

The committee recommends boosting the faction with senior MKs, such as the coalition chairman and the chairman of the Knesset's Labor and Social Affairs Committee, as well as senior representatives from the United Kibbutz Movement and the Druse and Arab sectors.

The report recommends the immediate establishment of a "party table" consisting of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, several ministers and senior Histadrut faction members to meet once a week to formulate the party's position on current issues. Shahal noted that Ram's leaders already share such a "table" with Shas' leader Aryeh Deri and Meretz Minister Yossi Sarid, among others.

The coalition with Ram exists on paper only, the report states. If this situation continues, the coalition will fall apart and the faction would be better off in the opposition.



Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (left) and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas sign trade and diplomatic agreements in Caracas yesterday. (Romer)

'Histadrut sold out workers for organization fees'

TENURE, collective work agreements, and other historic workers' achievements could disappear, following major concessions made by the Histadrut as part of the organization fee agreement it signed with the private employers this week, senior Histadrut officials said yesterday.

The head of the Histadrut's Organization Section, Pinni Shomer, a Labor faction member, yesterday presented Histadrut Chairman MK Haim Ramon with a parliamentary question, demanding Ramon expose any

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

secret clauses dealing with the renunciation of workers' rights and privileges in the agreement with the employers.

Without the deduction of the organization fee from workers' wages, the Histadrut would have no income and be forced to shut down. But in agreeing to the deduction, the employers took advantage of the situation and extracted significant concessions, the sources said. These include the Histadrut's agreement to review all the existing collective

wage agreements to trace "extra worker privileges."

This clause, the sources explained, conceals the Histadrut's renunciation of most of the trade unions' historic achievements, including tenure, promotion, preserving senior workers' status at work, and union participation in deciding on dismissals.

In addition to that, the Histadrut made a commitment to maintain industrial peace, and also agreed that no change in workers' rights would serve as any basis for work disruptions or a strike.

Gov't tenders must now be published in Arab press

EVELYN GORDON

GOVERNMENT tenders must be published in at least one Arabic newspaper, as well as in the Hebrew press, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair ordered yesterday.

The new order will apply to all tenders except those obviously not relevant to the Arab population, such as tenders for rabbinical posts.

Ben-Yair issued the order in response to a complaint by Knesset Law Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz), who charged that existing tender procedures are discriminatory. Until now, the regulations said only that tenders must be published in two Hebrew dailies, at least one of which must be one of the country's three largest.

Ben-Yair agreed with Zucker that this procedure violated both general principles of equality and the specific language of the Tender Law, which states: "Neither the government nor any government body shall conclude a contract... except via a public tender in which every person has an equal opportunity to participate."

If tenders are only published in the Hebrew press, Ben-Yair noted, Arabic speakers do not have an equal opportunity to participate, because they are unlikely to be aware of the tender's existence.

Ben-Yair stressed that his conclusion did not rely on Arabic's status as an official language, since he did not want to get into the "complicated question of the various implications" of this.

However, he noted, the principle of equality has other ramifications. For instance, he has already expressed his opinion — in response to a petition to the High Court of Justice — that street signs in cities which have a mixed population, such as Haifa, should be in both Hebrew and Arabic.

Human error cited as cause of fatal IAF crash

ALON PINKAS

HUMAN error was the prime cause of last month's aircraft crash, in which two soldiers were killed, an air force investigating committee has determined, the IDF Spokesman announced last night.

The committee, appointed by OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Herzl Bodinger immediately after the December 6 crash, said in its report, submitted yesterday, there was no technical failure in the aircraft and the crash was caused by human error.

The report added that the staff decision-making process prior to the exercise in which the aircraft was used was flawed. The committee recommended that some decision-making procedures be changed.

Bodinger accepted the findings and endorsed the recommendations. Capt. Gershon Ben-Shmuel and Staff Sgt. Moshe Cohen were killed, and another crew member was injured, in the crash. Their families will receive the report today.

Psychologist who molested patients may lose license

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry yesterday filed a complaint against psychologist Eli Fallah, whose appeal of a four-year prison sentence for sexually abusing patients was denied by the Supreme Court this week.

The complaint, filed with a ministry disciplinary committee established under the Psychologists' Law, can result in the temporary or permanent cancellation of Fallah's license.

Miri Huebner-Harel, head of the claims unit in the ministry's legal department, said a psychologist's license has never been re-

voked, even temporarily. There have been a few cases of medical doctors losing their licenses for sexually abusing patients.

Four years in jail "is a heavy sentence," Huebner-Harel added.

"And the court has issued a signal to professionals that ethical lines should never be crossed." A psychologist's abuse can cause great harm, because the patient is troubled and trusts the professional, she added.

The disciplinary committee will hear Fallah's side in prison before it decides what to do.

Company head given fine, probation for tax fraud

RAINE MARCUS

THE former owner and director of Yitzhar Industries, Yitzhak Mittelman, was given a nine-month suspended sentence and fined NIS 75,000 by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday for tax offenses.

In the 1988 elections, Mittelman and his company, which has since been sold, donated NIS 57,500 to the Likud Party. However, Mittelman listed the donation as advertising expenses to avoid paying taxes on the contribution. Advertising services are recognized expenses for tax purposes.

Judge Haya Hofetz said that in so doing, Mittelman committed fraud and intended to deceive tax authorities. Although he had been traumatized by the trial and conviction, this was no reason to impose a lenient sentence, she added.

Several weeks ago, Hofetz imposed a twelve-month suspended sentence on another owner of a company, Arye Naor, for quite a similar offense regarding false registration of contributions to political parties. Naor also received a fine to the tune of NIS 20,000.

Police complete investigation of Sheerit

BILL HUTMAN

POLICE yesterday refused to disclose whether they recommended charging MK Meir Sheerit (Likud), after completing an investigation into allegations he misused Jewish Agency funds while serving as its treasurer.

Cmdr. Yossi Levy, head of Criminal Investigations Branch, would only say the file was turned over to the State Attorney's Office for review.

It was last night reported that the police did recommend charging Sheerit.

Sheerit is suspected of using a Jewish Agency American Express credit card for personal expenses, and not repaying the agency.

Agency Chairman Simcha Diniz, who also allegedly used an agency credit card for personal expenses, is now on trial on fraud charges.

"No comparison can be made between Diniz and me," Sheerit said yesterday.

He strongly denied the allegations, and charged the investigation was politically motivated, strongly hinting that Police Minister Moshe Shahal had unfairly intervened in the investigation.

"I followed Jewish Agency guidelines, and

when I used the credit card for personal expenses while traveling abroad, I would reimburse it upon my return," Sheerit said.

"Twice while serving as treasurer I had the people in charge of expenses review my accounts to ensure that I owed nothing," Sheerit said. "I gave the police the letters I received from the accounts department saying I owed nothing."

Sheerit said if any outstanding payments remained, the agency could have simply given him the bills and he would have paid.

"I am not at all worried," Sheerit said. "I know I'm innocent."

Homeless man complains against forced lodging

EVELYN GORDON

THE homeless should not be forced to reside in institutions or hospitals against their will, a petition to the High Court of Justice demanded yesterday.

The petition, directed against Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir, was filed by Eliahu Atari, a 26-year-old Haifa resident who has been homeless since 1989. Atari made news a couple of years ago when he unsuccessfully petitioned the court for the right to sell one of his kidneys to support himself.

"The Haifa welfare agencies are trying to take care of me, but I want to remain homeless," he

wrote in the petition. "I am not an alcoholic or a drug addict, but despite this I am homeless. Not all the homeless are criminals. Some of us chose this lifestyle because we are afraid... We find in the street a kind of shelter from our problems. We find in people's interest a sort of friendship: they will become interested, and we will not be alone."

Atari said he lived in various state institutions from the age of five until he entered the army, and had no desire to repeat the experience.

"There I saw a dark reality... of a hard life, of beatings and whippings," he wrote.

Once, he said, he even spent a month in an institution for the mentally retarded as punishment for mocking a retarded child.

"In an enlightened country, it is possible to force someone to be in jail all his life when he never hurt [anyone] or did anything bad to society, just because he is homeless," Atari wrote. "He should [be forced] to enter an institution or a lock-up just so some politician can say: 'I solved

the problem of housing for the homeless?'"

"It is our right to sleep wherever we want as long as we are not bothering," he concluded. "It is our right to sleep in the street in order to find friends and meet people; it is our right not to be alone... Now that we are adults, and aware of our surroundings and what is happening around us, the time has come to ask you not to imprison us or force us into institutions or nursing homes or hospitals, because this is our way of life. This is how we live. We don't hurt [anyone], and we ask that you not hurt us."

Senators 'clarify' expectations of PLO

HILLEL KUTLER

WASHINGTON

TWO US senators told Palestinian Authority Economics Minister Ahmed Oreia this week that they expect the PA to live up to its obligations under the Oslo accords.

The remarks were made at a meeting that took place Wednesday evening on Capitol Hill between Senators Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) and Connie Mack (R-Florida), Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir and Oreia.

Lieberman is a member of the National Security Committee, and Mack sits on the subcommittee handling foreign appropriations.

Savir and Oreia presented an overview of the two sides' implementation of the Declaration of Principles in a meeting arranged by the State Department's peace

process coordinator Dennis Ross.

The Senators then "clarified" the "importance they see in Palestinian compliance with all their obligations... under the spirit and letter" of the DOP, an Israeli official said.

But the official said that while the senators expressed dissatisfaction with PLO compliance on terrorism and amending the organization's covenant, they did not issue a warning or condition future US funding to the PA on improvements.

Savir and Oreia later met at the State Department with Ross and Jordanian Information Minister Jawad Anani to discuss joint economic projects. That meeting followed the conclusion of a two-day conference on establishing a structure to finance regional projects.

CAIRO (Reuters) — Jordan and Egypt agreed after talks in Cairo yesterday to improve relations strained by Amman's unilateral peace with Israel and its custodial claim over Moslem sites in Jerusalem.

Speaking after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, Jordanian Minister Abdul-Karim Kabariti said: "We agreed to solve all the problems between our countries so that relations could return to what they were before."

Diplomats said Jordan's surprise peace treaty with Israel and

lack of consultation with Arab countries upset Egypt, which has called for a coordinated Arab position in peace talks.

Egyptian sources said the meeting between Kabariti and Moussa also focused on the Middle East peace process and Jordanian patronage of Islamic sites in Jerusalem, recognized by Israel in its peace treaty with Jordan.

This infuriated the Palestinians, Egypt, and other Arab states. Kabariti said a meeting between King Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat would take place to clear stormy relations, but no date has been set.

NEWS IN BRIEF

3,000 tested as potential marrow donors

More than 3,000 volunteers underwent blood tests on Tuesday to find a bone-marrow donor for Lior Novick, 28, who suffers from a preliminary form of leukemia. Half the blood samples were collected at the Magen David Adom central blood center at Tel Hashomer and the rest at MDA stations in Jerusalem, Haifa, Tiberias, Rehovot, and Eilat. Nurses at Ein Tzurim, Kfar Blum, and Ein Yahav took blood samples from kibbutz members. All the samples were flown to the US, where they will be tested. Results should be available in a few weeks.

Tzaban: Olim help raise standard of living

The massive immigration from the former Soviet Union is the main reason the Gross National Product rose 33 percent in the past five years, which has helped raise the standard of living of veteran Israelis by 22%, Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban said yesterday.

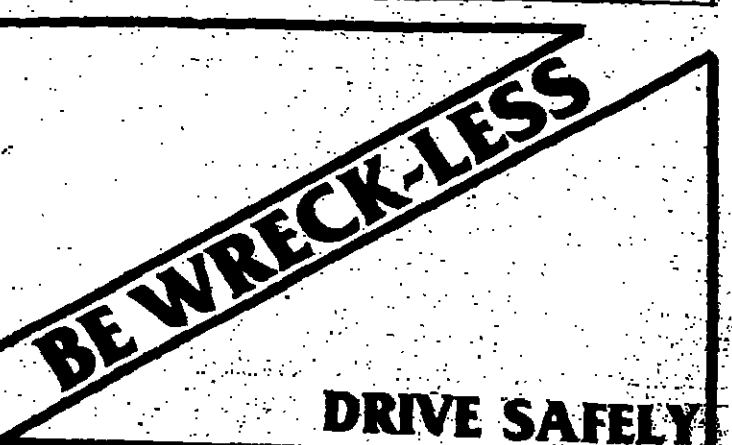
Tzaban was speaking at the festive opening of a new ministry office in Netivot, which will serve some 17,000 immigrants in towns in the western Negev. Until now, these immigrants have had to travel to the ministry's Beersheva office. Amir Razenblat

Bomb explodes near Netzarim Junction

A bomb exploded near the Netzarim Junction late last night, but caused no injuries or damage, Netzarim residents reported. Miri Harari, spokeswoman for Netzarim, said the bomb exploded as an IDF jeep was driving by. The IDF blocked traffic on the road for about an hour, and searched for the perpetrator.

High schoolers charged with gang rape

Five high school students, suspected of gang-raping a 14-year-old girl, were indicted in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. The prosecution charged that the five, aged 15-17, raped and sodomized the victim several times during July and August. They allegedly also threatened to kill her if she told anyone. The prosecution said it has sufficient evidence to convict the five, but agreed to their house arrest after study hours, "because of their tender age."



Maccabi thrashed 79-62 by PAOK

JOEL GORDIN

MACCABI Tel Aviv were thrashed by 17 points, 79-62, last night by Greece's PAOK Saloniki in the eighth game of the European Club Championships' final pool.

The Israeli champions put up a creditable first half and only trailed the Greeks by two points (42-46) at the half.

Maccabi had cause to be optimistic - Doron Jamchee was on good shooting form with 13 and the defense was holding John Korfas and the much-feared Yugoslav, Branslav Prelovic.

In fact, most of PAOK's scores were from its younger players, after Prelovic was benched. However, after the break Maccabi collapsed completely and scored a paltry 20 points.

The main culprit was Jamchee who scored one three-pointer in the second half - out of eight attempts. However, both the foreign players, Norris Coleman (14) and Radisav Curcic (11) had miserable nights.

The defense was no better. Zoran Savic, Prelovic and Predrag Stojakovic slashed gaping holes and scored almost at will.

It was a night Maccabi will want to forget. There was a spot of good news, however. Russia's CSKA Moscow were unexpectedly beaten by Benfica Lisbon of Portugal, so Maccabi, with a 4-4 record, remain in the top half of the eight-team pool, with a fighting chance to advance to the next round.

Hornets notch 7th straight win

NEW YORK (AP) - While Cleveland has been getting all the attention in the Central Division, Charlotte has been quietly piling up victories.

The Hornets extended their team-record winning streak to seven games Wednesday night with a 100-91 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves. It was Charlotte's 10th straight win at home, another franchise record.

The Hornets are now within a half-game of the first-place Cavaliers, and their 0-3 start is long forgotten.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:
Boston 100, Indiana 97
Charlotte 100, Minnesota 91
Orlando 124, Detroit 107
Chicago 115, Philadelphia 77
Dallas 98, LA Clippers 85
Houston 108, Miami 97
Milwaukee 97, Sacramento 88
Utah 114, Denver 88
Portland 104, Golden State 92
Phoenix 115, LA Lakers 104

TODAY ON CABLE TV

CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 8:30 College soccer 10:00 Kovic Cup: Hapoel Eilat v Stetelini Milano 12:30 Soccer: Israel v Yugoslavia 13:30 Spanish league soccer 15:00 WWF 18:00 Bushido 17:00 Israeli basketball magazine 17:30 Mondial 18:00 College basketball 19:10 European Cup volleyball: Hapoel Bat Yam v Paris St. Germain 20:00 Bushido 20:30 European Cup basketball 22:00 European soccer magazine 23:00 Premier League soccer 00:00 (to be announced)

EUROSPORT

9:30 Motor racing 10:00 Leisure sports 10:30 Snow board 11:00 Adventure 12:00 Triathlon 13:00 Motor racing 13:30 International soccer 15:00 Soccer 16:00 Tractor towing 17:00 Live international soccer final 21:00 Eurosport news 21:30 International motor racing magazine 22:30 Motor racing 23:00 Boxing 00:00 Wrestling 23:00 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORTS

No details available

SATURDAY JANUARY 14

CHANNEL 5

8:30 Table tennis 9:30 Spanish league soccer 11:00 Mondial 11:30 Premier League soccer 12:30 European soccer magazine 13:30 European basketball 14:30 Handball 15:00 European basketball 16:00 Israeli basketball magazine 18:00 Bungee 19:00 Show jumping 19:30 Rugby 20:30 Bushido 20:30 NBA: Utah v Boston 22:00 Israeli soccer 23:00 (to be announced)

EUROSPORT

9:30 Motor racing 10:00 Soccer 11:30 Motor racing 12:00 Live ski jumping 13:00 Live men's alpine skiing 14:00 Live ski jumping 15:00 Women's alpine skiing 17:00 Men's alpine skiing 18:00 Ski jumping 18:00 Cross country skiing 20:00 International artistic sport 21:00 International soccer highlights 22:30 Motor racing 23:00 Boxing 1:00 Wrestling from Japan 2:00 International motor racing magazine

PRIME SPORTS

7:00 Live Taipei Open badminton 10:30 NBA behind the scenes 11:00 European soccer show 12:00 Live Taipei Open badminton 19:30 Sailing 19:00 Boxing 19:00 Horse racing 18:30 Motor racing 23:00 Taipei Open badminton 23:30 European soccer show 00:00 Horse racing 00:30 Squash

Australia A edges England into WS finals

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Australia A snatched a place in the World Series finals ahead of England in a dramatic finish to the final qualifying match under floodlights at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

The second string Australian side, captained by Damien Martyn, will now meet Australia in the best-of-three match finals starting on Sunday.

Australia A went in to yesterday's match against England two points behind the tourists and with an inferior run rate but took the upper hand when it scored a formidable 264 for five from its 50 overs.

England, left a minimum 237 to qualify, lost wickets regularly and in the last over bowled by paceman Paul Reiffel still required 10 with two wickets in hand.

Reiffel trapped Shann Udell leg before wicket, and last man Angus Fraser and Chris Lewis could manage only two runs from the final three deliveries.

England finished on 235 for nine, losing the match by 29 runs, and ensuring an all-Australia finals.

Australia A's victory was founded on centuries by Greg Blewett (113) and the previously out-of-form Michael Bevan (105), who added 161 for the third wicket in 28 overs after Martyn had won the toss.

In reply, each of the England top-order reached double figures but no one was able to go on to make the big score which would have steered them to victory and it soon became a question whether they would reach 237.

The A team's bowling and fielding was equal to the pressure, however, with Reiffel taking two for 42 and leg-spinner Peter McIntyre claiming three for 45. Bevan and Blewett gave the A team its impetus after a slow start which saw 26 runs only scored in the first 10 overs.

Blewett, who scored 63 in the A team's defeat by Australia on Sunday, again shined, facing 132 balls and hitting eight fours.

The opener found the ideal ally in Bevan, who had been dropped to the A side after a wretched



CONTACT - Australia A batsman Greg Blewett plays a shot on his way to his innings total of 113 runs as England wicket keeper Steve Rhodes looks on during their sides' World Series day-night match played at the Sydney Cricket Ground. (Reuters)

first half to the international season, including only 81 runs in six Test innings against England.

Bevan reached his century on his home ground in the last over of the innings before he was caught and bowled by off-spinner Udell after facing only 102 balls and striking six fours.

The running between the wickets of Blewett, Bevan and Justin Langer, who helped Bevan add 38 in only 26 balls for the fourth wicket, put England's out-cricked under intense pressure, and it cracked as 46 came from the last five overs.

Pick of the attack for the tourists were seamers Phillip DeFreitas (one for 43) and Angus Fraser (no wicket for 36), but otherwise

everyone else was expensive.

England made a deceptively good start to its run chase with Graham Gooch (17) and Atherton (20) adding 40 in seven overs, and at that stage, the target off 265 looked possible.

Wickets then began to tumble as Reiffel, Shane George and McIntyre, in his first World Series match, slowed the scoring rate, and it soon became clear that England had adjusted its sights to the lower target.

It required 61 in 10 overs, then 39 in five overs before, with Lewis, DeFreitas and Udell all chancing their arm, it was reduced to 12 of the same number of balls.

But George conceded only two from his final over with Reiffel

applying the final touches to the win.

England, which has now added defeat in the World Series to its failure to regain the Ashes - it is 2-0 down in the five match series - will now have some time off before heading to Bendigo for a four-day game against Victoria, starting on January 20.

Australia A Innings
M.Hayden c Gooch b DeFreitas 4
G.Blewett c Thorpe b Lewis 113
D.Martyn c Thorpe b Lewis 13
M.Bevan c & b Udell 105
J.Langer c Gooch b Udell 18
P.Ponting not out 6
P.Emerly not out 8
Extras (lb-7) 7
Total (for five wickets, 50 overs) 264
Fall of wickets: 1-40.2-55.3-100.4-105.5-143.6-179.7-187.8-215.9-232.
Bowling: Hughes 6-0-43-2 (w-3), Reiffel 10-2-42-2 (w-2), Blewett 6-0-44-1, George 10-1-33-1 (w-2), McIntyre 10-0-45-3, Martyn 4-0-15-0.
Result: Australia A won by 29 runs
Australia will meet Australia A in the best-of-three match finals.
First match: Sydney, January 15
Second match: Melbourne, January 17
Third match (if required): Melbourne, January 19

2-43-1, Lewis 6-0-48-2, Udell 10-0-56-2, Hick 6-0-40-0, Gooch 6-0-34-0.

England Innings
G.Gooch c Emerly b Hughes 17
M.Atherton c Emerly b Reiffel 20
G.Hick b McIntyre 35
G.Thorpe c Reiffel b McIntyre 24
J.Crowley c Emerly b George 57
M.Gatting b Hughes 15
S.Rhodes c George b McIntyre 23
C.Lewis not out 22
P.DeFreitas b Blewett 12
S.Udell b Reiffel 9
A.Fraser not out 1
Extras (lb-13 w-7) 20
Total (for nine wickets, 50 overs) 235
Fall of wickets: 1-40.2-55.3-100.4-105.5-143.6-179.7-187.8-215.9-232.
Bowling: Hughes 6-0-43-2 (w-3), Reiffel 10-2-42-2 (w-2), Blewett 6-0-44-1, George 10-1-33-1 (w-2), McIntyre 10-0-45-3, Martyn 4-0-15-0.
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Tough draw for Sampras in Aussie Open; easier for Agassi

MELBOURNE (AP) - Defending champion Pete Sampras has a potentially tough draw when he begins his defense of the Australian Open men's singles title at the National Tennis Center on Monday. For No.2 seed Andre Agassi, things look a lot easier.

Sampras, the world's top-ranked player, was yesterday drawn to face Italian baseliner Gianluca Pozzi in his first-round match. He may face fellow American Jared Palmer in the second round and could meet Sweden's Magnus Larsson in the round of 16 and two-time champion Jim Courier or former Wimbledon titlist Michael Stich of Germany in the quarter-finals.

Larsson, seeded 15, won the Grand Slam Cup late last year and was a member of the victorious Swedish Davis Cup team. "I'm sure Pete Sampras is looking through his draw and finding he has a very difficult route to the finals," three-time Australian champion Mats Wilander said. "He's playing very dangerous players."

Agassi, who will play in the first Grand Slam championship of the year for the first time, was drawn to face qualifiers in his opening two matches and is in a weaker bottom half of the draw.

The toughest opponent US Open champion Agassi might face before the quarter could be Australia's Patrick Rafter, who beat him in straight sets in an exhibition in Adelaide on Wednesday while Agassi was still



HARD-PRESSED - Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain gets help from her coach during a stretch exercise. She is the top women's seed in the Australian Open. (AP)

jet-lagged and having trouble adjusting to the twilight.

Todd Martin, the No.8 seed and runner-up to Sampras last year, is seeded to meet Agassi in the quarters.

Boris Becker of Germany, the No.3 seed and winner in Australia

in 1991, will play American Patrick McEnroe in his first-round match. He beat the American in the Australian Open semi-finals in 1991.

The draw for the women's singles will be made today.

Maccabi Jaffa gunning for 11th win

DEREK FATTAL

WITH the stars of the National League still on winter break, the Second Division provides the weekend's top soccer action.

Maccabi Jaffa consolidated its grip of the division's leadership with a 2-1 victory last week against promotion-hopeful Hapoel Kfar Sava. Tomorrow in Round 15 of the division's fixture schedule, the table topper travels to neighbor Hapoel Bat Yam and looks a good bet to notch up its 11th win of the season.

With an eight-point lead over

second-placed Hapoel Ashdod, the Jaffa side is firm favorite to take the division's silverware at the end of the season. The question remaining is who will get the other promotion spot.

Ashdod heads a field of eight teams separated by just six points hoping to make the big league.

Ashdod hosts struggler Hapoel Kiryat Shmona tomorrow, while third-placed Hakoah Ramat Gan will be entertained at Teddy Sta-

dium by sixth-placed Hapoel Jerusalem in one of the round's most intriguing fixtures. In another important promotion battle, the two teams sandwiched between them, Hapoel Kfar Sava and Ness Ziona also lock horns.

Weekend soccer action, Second Division (all matches kick off tomorrow 2:30 pm unless otherwise stated):
Hapoel Tel Aviv v Maccabi Yavne, (today), 2:30; Hapoel Jerusalem v Hakoah Ramat Gan; Hapoel Ashdod v Maccabi Kiryat Gat; Hapoel Lod v Shimshon Tel Aviv; Hapoel Kiryat Shmona v Hapoel Hadera; Hapoel Ramat Gan v Hapoel Ashdod; Hapoel Kfar Sava v Ness Ziona; Hapoel Bat Yam v Maccabi Jaffa, 3:00.

Nottingham Forest aims to put the brakes on Blackburn Rovers

LONDON (Reuters) - Former England captain Stuart Pearce leads Nottingham Forest on a quest of Robin Hood proportions at rich Premier League leader Blackburn Rovers tomorrow.

A Forest victory would deny Blackburn, Manchester United and Liverpool, which have spent millions building their sides, a near monopoly of the championship race.

Blackburn, unbeaten in 11 league games in which they have dropped only two points, are three points in front of United, seven ahead of Liverpool and 10 clear of fourth-placed Forest.

United visits fifth-placed Newcastle on Sunday knowing it will not be facing the strike power of Andy Cole - it signed him from Kevin Keegan's club for a British record 27 million fee on Tuesday but agreed to leave him out of the side.

The Forest defense will be tested to the limit by Rovers' 41-goal pair Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton.

A Sutton double ended Forest's unbeaten record in October, sparking a run of poor form that saw Frank Clark's side slip from second to fifth.

But it has already upset the odds with a shock win over Manchester United at Old Trafford last month

- ending the champions' 100 percent home record. "Looking back I think we played as well against Blackburn as anyone this season even though we lost," said Pearce.

"If we played like that every week we'd be more than satisfied and I do not think the result would be a 2-0 defeat very often."

If Forest is to put the brakes on Blackburn's attack it will have to do what only Alex Ferguson's side has managed.

Rovers have found the target in all 10 home league matches so far, scoring 31 goals and winning nine of the 10. The only blemish was their 4-2 defeat to United on October 23.

Pearce added: "Blackburn are the best team in the country at the moment. All the team are very good players and we know how hard it will be."

Of the top three, resurgent Liverpool has the easiest game. It should beat Ipswich, struggling one place and one point off the bottom of the table, at Anfield.

Liverpool's current fine form helped it beat Arsenal 1-0 on Wednesday to reach the last four of the League Cup.

Steelers or Chargers will try to break AFC Super Bowl jinx

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Maybe the AFC has finally gotten the message. Judging by the teams it is sending to its championship game, it certainly appears that way.

The conference of losers, which has fallen 10 straight times and in 12 of the last 13 Super Bowls, at last might have learned its lesson. The Pittsburgh Steelers and San Diego Chargers, who will meet Sunday for the AFC title, have a decidedly NFC bent.

Both are big and physical on offense and defense. Both prefer to run first, pass second and intimidate all the time.

Forget their 37-34 shootout in the season finale, in which the Steelers had nothing to play for, sitting out three stars and resting several others during the game.

Neither side expects that kind of performance at Three Rivers Stadium Sunday.

"It's going to be a war," said Pittsburgh running back John L. Williams. "It's for a chance to go to the show."

The show, the Super Bowl in Miami on January 29, would be something entirely new for the Chargers, one of nine NFL teams never to get there.

"For us to get past this step and

get to the AFC championship, I think we're on the right track here," quarterback Stan Humphries said. "We've just got to keep it going."

The Steelers haven't gone to the Super Bowl in 15 years, when they won their fourth in six seasons, an unprecedented run. They seem to have the elements needed in the league's top-ranked running game, an overpowering defense and superb coaching.

The Chargers were beating everyone during a 6-0 start. Then they slumped, but they showed in their second-half comeback to

beat Miami 22-21 last Sunday that they've got the resourcefulness needed in order to get to the big game.

They also have the stars, from Junior Seau, Leslie O'Neal and Stanley Richard on defense to running back Natrone Means and kicker John Carney.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

(all times Israel)
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15
AFC - San Diego at Pittsburgh 7:30 pm
NFC - Dallas at San Francisco 11:00 pm
(Sports Channel will broadcast both games back-to-back on a tape delay starting at 11:30 pm. On Monday, both games are to be shown again 7:30-11:30 am, with a probable NFC return at 4 pm and highlights at 11:45 pm.)

Arrest warrant out for Maradona's ex-manager

NAPLES, Italy (AP) - Judges investigating the alleged sale of cocaine to Napoli soccer players between 1987 and 1990 have issued an arrest warrant for Guillermo Coppola, the former manager of Argentine great Diego Armando Maradona.

Court officials in Naples said Coppola, believed to be in Argentina, was charged on Wednesday with drug sale along with two Neapolitan residents who were arrested by Naples police.

Some former players of the Neapolitan first-division club were questioned in the case but their names were not disclosed.

Coppola lived in this southern Italian city in the late 1980s, when Maradona was Napoli's star forward and led the club to league titles in 1986-87 and 1989-90.

The Argentine player left Italy in 1991 following a 15-month international suspension for testing positive for cocaine after a league game. Maradona, the captain of Argentina's national team, received a second suspension last year after failing a drug test during the World Cup in the US.

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ON WEDNESDAYS:

- The Middle East page brings you an Arab news digest, articles on and by Israel's neighbors.

ON THURSDAYS:

- The Post's "agony aunt" Ruth Blum answers readers' questions.
- Intelligence experts Uri Dan and Dennis Eisenberg give you inside stories of international intrigue.

Ben-Yair: GSS conduct greatly improved

EVELYN GORDON

FORMER Supreme Court justice Moshe Landau's statement that he "felt betrayed" by the General Security Service does not mean he thinks the GSS routinely uses torture. Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair said yesterday.

Landau, who headed the 1987 commission that drew up guidelines for GSS investigations, made the remark last Thursday at a memorial service for former GSS head Yosef Harmelin.

"How great was my disappointment ... when it became clear that [even after the Landau Report], there were still serious failings in the activities of some GSS investigators," Landau said, according to a transcript of his remarks read by Ben-Yair at a meeting with reporters in Jerusalem.

'Last' protest against Bar-Ilan closure set for tomorrow

BILL HUTMAN

SECULAR activists are to hold their last demonstration against the Shabbat closure of Rehov Bar-Ilan in Jerusalem tomorrow at 4 p.m. The protests are to be suspended until Mayor Ehud Olmert makes a final decision on the matter, protest organizers said yesterday.

They warned, however, that if Olmert ultimately decides to close the road, the protests will be resumed and intensified.

"The demonstrations we held over the last weeks were effective," said City Councilman Ornan Yekutieli (Meretz), a protest organizer, together with One Jerusalem Councilwoman Nurit Yardeni-Levy. "Now we will wait for Olmert to make his decision."

Olmert is awaiting the recommendations of a committee he appointed to investigate the feasibility of Shabbat road closures. No deadline was set for its proposals.

lem. "I felt betrayed."

However, Ben-Yair said, Landau's remark was taken out of context and given an interpretation Landau never intended.

The incident Landau was referring to, he said, involved two GSS investigators who admitted in 1989 to using illegal interrogation techniques. They were suspended the following day, tried, convicted, sentenced to six months in prison, and dismissed.

In the aftermath, Ben-Yair said, former justice minister Dan Meridor greatly increased government supervision of the investigations, which is now "very, very tight."

In addition, he noted, both the Knesset and the state comptroller also now supervise the

GSS.

Landau acknowledged the improvement in his remarks, Ben-Yair said.

"The failure ... caused me to realize that the problems which the Landau Commission discussed were not fixed at once, as we had thought, but will be fixed gradually," Landau said, according to the transcript.

Ben-Yair said he still could not swear that torture never occurs.

"I'm not there, and I don't see a video," he said, "but to the best of my knowledge, the situation is not the same as it was in 1989."

The "moderate physical pressure" permitted under the Lan-

dan guidelines certainly does not constitute torture, Ben-Yair stressed - not even the special procedures recently okayed for a three-month period to combat Hamas terror. The permitted procedures are reviewed every three months, he added, and sometimes some are removed from the list.

One proof of the recent improvement, Ben-Yair said, is that the number of those interrogated by the GSS has fallen considerably. From 1987-92, more than 3,000 people a year were interrogated, with the number reaching 4,600 one year. In 1993, however, less than 3,000 were interrogated, and last year the number was less than 2,000.

In addition, he noted, investi-

gation of complaints against the GSS was transferred from the GSS to the Justice Ministry in 1993, thereby enabling a fairer hearing of complaints. Dozens of complaints have been received, and some have resulted in disciplinary hearings.

Ben-Yair declined to give an opinion on whether the Landau guidelines conform with the 1992 Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom, saying it would be irresponsible to do so on the spur of the moment. However, he noted, the government is now working on a law which will regulate all aspects of the GSS, including its investigations - and this law will have to conform to the Basic Law, because it will not enjoy the exemption given to pre-existing laws.



MK Dov Shilansky talks to prisoners yesterday at the holding cells of the Tel Aviv courthouse. (Beny. Rish/TPA)

MK Shilansky goes to jail - voluntarily

LIAT COLLINS and RAINE MARCUS

MK DOV Shilansky (Likud) voluntarily put himself behind bars yesterday for a two-day fast-finding mission.

Shilansky, who has consistently supported prison reform, said he wanted to go through the whole process of being arrested, held in a police lock-up, and moved to prison to learn first-hand what is involved.

"When I visited Neveh Tirza [women's prison] recently, the inmates told me how the place had been scrubbed and tidied up before I arrived," Shilansky said. "I wanted to see what really happens, not when you're on an official visit, but when you're arrested. On an official visit, you're escorted by all sorts of high-ranking prison officials, who only show you what they want you to see."

Shilansky said MK Elie Goldschmidt (Labor), who did the same thing recently, gave him "prison survival tips."

In a phone interview with Israel Radio, Shilansky described the conditions in the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court's detention cells as "extremely difficult." He described the hole in the floor which serves as a toilet, and said a prisoner told him he had suffered a perforated intestine because he was unable to use it.

Shilansky said he had seen an improvement in conditions over the years, but they are still unacceptable. "The whole business needs a complete overhaul," he said.

He denied the visit is a publicity stunt, saying it is necessary to see what really goes on behind bars.

When the warden checking him in at the Nitzan detention center asked him what offense he was being detained for, Shilansky replied: "Love of Israel."

She then asked him if he was mad at anyone or had old scores to settle, to determine if he should be segregated from other inmates. "I have an argument with the government," replied Shilansky, who was convicted of possessing explosives in 1952 and imprisoned for 16 months for an unsuccessful bid to blow up the Foreign Ministry in protest against the reparations agreement with Germany.

Yesterday, he arrived with a bag containing toiletries, but soon discovered that a detainee is forbidden to bring personal belongings. He was checked by Nitzan's doctor, then given blankets and other basic paraphernalia.

Although Shilansky said he wants to get the feel of prison life, he will not spend the night in jail. At midnight, he was scheduled to leave Nitzan for the comfort of his own bed.

He is expected to spend today at Ramle's high-security Ayalon Prison.

Sheftel files complaint against behavior of TA judge

RAINE MARCUS

THE second complaint in six months against Tel Aviv District Court Judge Haim Adar for behavior not befitting a judge was filed with Justice Minister David Libai and Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar this week.

This time lawyer Yoram Sheftel complained that Adar refused to accept a medical excuse in support of Sheftel's absence in a trial.

Half a year ago, Adar ordered the arrest of lawyer Yoram Halevy, but the Justice Ministry decided not to conduct disciplinary proceedings against Adar, because the judge is due to retire within a year.

The latest incident occurred in December, when Sheftel contracted a respiratory tract infection while he was due to in court.

A doctor's note was sent to Adar, but the latter refused to accept it, saying he needed a physician's sworn statement.

At first Adar postponed the trial by several hours and sent the defendants to inform Sheftel he would need another doctor's note. One was provided and the trial was postponed for a few days.

Sheftel did not recover and sent another doctor's note to the court. This time Adar refused to accept it and ordered proceedings to continue, saying it was the defense lawyer's responsibility to his clients to be present.

Sheftel instructed his clients by phone to ask Adar to disqualify himself from the trial. Adar postponed ruling on the request.

Tel Aviv Bar Association head and Judges' Committee member Avi Meitar has also asked Libai and Shamgar to take disciplinary proceedings against Adar.

A clause in the law states a judge may be suspended if seven out of nine members of the Judges' Committee vote to do so.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bathing beauty restricted to base

A woman air force soldier and her commanding non-commissioned officer were restricted to their base for extended periods of time yesterday by the Deputy OC Women's Corps after the soldier was found guilty of posing for the press "in a manner not befitting a woman soldier."

The soldier posed in a bathing suit, covered from head to toe with mud, and carrying her M-16 rifle at the Dead Sea in a picture carried on the back page of Wednesday's *Ma'ariv*. However, doing so violates orders stating that such pictures harm the image of women and the IDF. The army plans to take steps to prevent publication of such pictures.

Banker charged with embezzlement

A senior investment counselor at the Afirad neighborhood branch of Bank Hapoalim in Ashkelon was arrested three weeks ago at Ben-Gurion Airport on suspicion of embezzling NIS 1.6 million from clients and the bank.

Rafael Zuvartz, 48, was found with a large sum of money, five plane tickets, bank customers' checkbooks, and bank documents in his possession. He was charged with embezzlement, fraud, and counterfeiting by Beersheba Magistrate's Court yesterday.

According to the indictment, Zuvartz started committing the alleged offenses this past April, mainly by cashing in customers' savings plans ahead of time without their knowledge.

Weak quake felt in Haifa

A very weak earthquake was felt in Haifa at 3:32 yesterday afternoon, the Seismology Department of the Energy Ministry has reported. The epicenter of the quake, which registered 3.0 on the Richter scale, was at sea, some 30 kilometers west of Haifa. No injuries or damage were reported.

State defends new car registration fee

The new higher car registration fee, which replaced the car plate fee, is not confiscatory, even though those who do not have radios must pay, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday. In responding to two petitions on the subject, the state explained that the NIS 81 tax is not a radio usage fee, but simply a tax like any other that all car-owners are subjected to. Though its proceeds are used to support the Israel Broadcasting Authority, the state added, this is no more illegal than using tax money from people with no children to support schools.

University bonus criteria called too lenient

If the universities do not set reasonable criteria for giving bonuses to professors, the state will consider asking the courts to resolve the dispute, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair warned yesterday. The bonuses, included in the new wage agreements, were meant to provide extra payment for exceptional performance. However, the government charges they are being far too widely distributed, due to the overly lenient criteria set by the universities.

'Health Law to cost Histadrut a million members'

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE National Health Insurance Law will cost the Histadrut more than a million of its 1.6m. members and its income will drop from NIS 700m. to NIS 300m. annually, Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon said yesterday.

Ramon said only 700,000 workers are expected to pay the organization fees at first, following the agreement between employers and government signed this week. If the government extends the agreement later, the organization fees will apply to 920,000 workers, he said.

But he said it is unclear how many of those who pay the organization fee will be Histadrut members, as it is possible for workers to pay the fee merely by being part of a collective wage agreement, without belonging to the Histadrut.

Ramon said that at this stage only 150,000 private sector workers will be paying the organization fee; the remaining 550,000 belong to the civil service and public sector.

of the minimum wage rise has been achieved, working married women got another tax credit point, and the cost-of-living increment has been frozen pending negotiations over a new formula.



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Guest Speaker

Mr. Moshe Sanbar

Chairman, Bank Leumi Le-Israel

Subject:

THE IMPACT OF THE PEACE PROCESS

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